



DEVELOPER QUILTS HOMES SCHEME

Report by Jamie Brassington

PLANS to transform the site of a former school and college campus in Stourbridge with new homes have fallen through after the preferred developers pulled out.

Cameron Homes, who were chosen as the developers of the former Longlands School, have confirmed that they will not go ahead with revamping the site.

Community leaders have described the setback as a blow, but said that they still hoped to see site developed in the future.

The Longlands site was a school between 1912 and 1990 before Stourbridge College took it over as an arts campus.

The land was last used back in 2011 before Stourbridge College relocated its art department to a new campus on Venture Way in Brierley Hill.

There has been concern about vandalism at the site.

Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward councillor Nic Barlow said: "It is unfortunate but it is one of those things."

"There has obviously been a delay in getting the college developed but we will have to wait for the college to work with interested parties to get the development moving."

Cameron Homes and BMet did not wish to comment.

Disappointed

Dudley Council's regeneration boss, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said the developer's decision was a blow but that the local authority would continue to look for a new developer for the site.

He said: "We are disappointed this deal fell through, which was something beyond our control, but have started marketing the site again with immediate effect."

"We share people's frustrations, but rest assured we are working together with BMet and our agent to secure a developer for the site."

Stourbridge MP Margot James had been heavily involved with trying to get the project moving and had called for speedier progress after the scheme was hit by delays.

People living in the area had also called for the site, which has been targeted by vandals, to be brought back into use.

Ms James, who was recently appointed minister for small business by new Prime Minister Theresa May, said BMet bosses would now be co-operating with police to try and prevent further vandalism at the site.

Arsonists started two fires at the old school and security was stepped up on the land last year, including extra fencing being put up in a bid to prevent break-ins.

SCULPTOR LUKE IS AIMING TO INSPIRE STUDENTS



Sign of the times – Luke Perry working on the new sculpture for King Edward VI College at his Cradley Heath workshop

A CELEBRATED Black Country sculptor has created a work to say thank you to the college where he developed his talents.

Luke Perry is well known for his striking pieces that celebrate the industrial heritage of the region but his latest is also inspired by his time studying at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge.

The 33-year-old artist attended the college between 2000 and 2003 and still has a personal link as his wife Natalie works as an art technician there. So when asked to produce a centrepiece for the college grounds, working

with current students, Luke jumped at the chance and has been working on the design of the sculpture, which is due to be installed this week, since June.

He said: "This has been a very personal job, and it is great to put a sculpture in a place that will be used by students and become part of the old King Edwards but also the new."

Inspired by the architecture of the historic college, which was founded in 1552, Luke has created a piece that he says draws upon, and parodies, the neo-Gothic.

He said: "It is two stone octagons placed

on top of each other, similar to a cenotaph, and then projecting from that is a cast iron and steel fabricated piece, which represents a moral compass. All around it there are signposts and quotes from literature and film."

The quotes include 'I am the master of my fate' from the poem Invictus, to advice offered in blockbuster Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade 'You lost today, kid, but that doesn't mean you have to like it'. The work has also reunited Luke with his former English teacher Rosie Shale, who helped him and the students find the inspirational quotes.

THEFT

Dismay as cadets' new minibus stolen

THIEVES have stolen a minibus Kingswinford air cadets worked for, just three weeks after it was bought.

After spending four years raising £15,000 to buy the much-needed vehicle, The Kingswinford 2488 Squadron Air Training Corps were devastated to discover that the 17-seater Ford Transit had been stolen from their headquarters behind the Standhills Road Medical Centre.

Without the bus the squadron may have to cancel activities, including taking part in parades and expedition, until they can raise funds for another bus.

POLICE

Teenager in death probe freed on bail

A FOURTH teenager who was arrested over the murder of father-of-two Simon Johnson in Netherton has been released on bail. The 18-year-old was quizzed by officers after being arrested on Tuesday last week.

Police said the teenager had been released pending further inquiries. Three others, two aged 15 and one 18 have already been released on bail.

Mr Johnson was found stabbed to death at a house in Cradley Road on August 11.

CRIME

Pensioners warned over roofing scam

FRAUDSTERS have been sending out fake flyers offering non-existent roofing subsidies for pensioners.

Dudley Council is warning residents about official looking leaflets that have been distributed across the borough. They claim that subsidies of up to 40 per cent are available to pensioners.

The con promotes 'roof coating' work as an alternative to re-roofing and claim to make roofs 'maintenance free' for up to 20 years. Similar claims have been investigated by Trading Standards and found to be fraudulent. For more information, call trading standards on (01384) 812045.

INSIDE

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Three die in weekend of horror on roads



Tributes to MJ on Keats Road

A MAN and two children have died after a weekend of horror crashes in the Black Country.

A four-month-old baby girl and a three-year-old boy were among the victims as tragedy struck in three separate crashes, one of which closed the M6 until Monday morning.

In the first incident, a four-month-old girl died following a collision on the Birmingham Road in Walsall. The crash, close to The Bell pub, happened at 8.50pm on Friday. It involved a Ford Focus and a blue BMW 1 Series.

The baby, travelling in the red Ford

Focus, was pronounced dead at the scene, while several other people were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The road was closed for several hours while emergency services and collision investigators worked to clear the area and carry out inquiries to try and establish what happened.

Sergeant Chris Ridge from the collision investigation unit, said: "A young baby has tragically died, this is devastating for her family and our thoughts remain with them at this difficult time."

"This is a busy road and we have

spoken to a number of witnesses but we would still like to hear from anyone who saw what happened and has not yet spoken to an officer."

On Saturday afternoon a three-year-old boy was killed after a collision with a tipper van in Wolverhampton.

The child, Matthew Junior Rowland George Maybin, known as MJ, was pronounced dead at the scene in Keats Road, The Midlands.

On Sunday Telford father-of-two Anthony Marston, 54, died after a crash between a lorry, car and van on the M6 at Walsall at around 3pm.

Students celebrating A-level results success

AS A-level students across Dudley celebrated some record results, one teenager had extra reason to jump for joy when he saw his grades.

Dudley Sixth student Kulbir Singh didn't speak English until the age of 15, having come to the UK from Italy. But the 18-year-old has scored an impressive four A*s in mathematics, chemistry, further mathematics and physics.

Kulbir, who studied a one-year ESOL course (English for Speakers of other Languages) before his A-levels, will now take up his place at Brasenose College, Oxford, to read physics.

He said: "I liked maths and physics before I came to Dudley Sixth, now I love them. My tutor's shared my passion for the subjects and really motivated me to do well. It's such a relaxed, friendly atmosphere in which to study that I always felt happy to come to college."

Ambition

"My ambition is to go on and get a first at Oxford. Dudley Sixth has helped me believe anything's possible if you work for it."

Kulbir, who lives in Smethwick, was not the only one celebrating at the college as the number of students achieving higher grades rose and 30 out of 37 subjects received a pass rate of 100 per cent.

Elsewhere in the borough, Old Swinford Hospital in Stourbridge recorded a 100 per cent pass rate across 23 subjects. High-flyers included Budd Crooks, from Worcester, who gained straight A*s, and Nat Slater, from Kingswinford, with one A* and two A grades. Both students will continue their education at the University of Bath, studying natural sciences.

Stourbridge boys Oliver Mann, who achieved straight As, and Cameron Harrison, who achieved A*,A,B, are to study in London, at the London School of Economics and Political Sci-



Dudley Sixth student Kulbir Singh, aged 18, celebrated achieving an impressive four A*s in his A-level subjects once and University College London respectively.

At Bishop Milner Catholic College in Dudley, 43 per cent of students picked up A* to B Grades and 69 per cent A* to C Grades with the overall pass rate at 99.3 per cent.

Head Girl Alannah Joy found out she had one Distinction*, three As and a C, Theo Kacoulli achieved an A*, two Distinction* and a B, while Matthew Timmins collected three Distinction* grades.

Principal Steve Haywood said: "We are delighted to see so many success-

ful performances and wish all students a bright and happy future."

An overall pass rate of 99 per cent was recorded at Halesowen College with all students gaining at least one A-level. Among the high performers was Emma Rolinson who picked up A*s in sociology and psychology and an A in English Literature while Adam Higgins achieved three As in biology.

Bristnall Hall Academy in Oldbury celebrated improved A-level results with 100 per cent of pupils gaining two or more passes, up seven per cent

from last year, and 80 per cent achieving three or more A-level passes. The proportion of higher grades achieved was also significantly higher than in previous years with 78 per cent of grades being at A* to C.

Principal Vince Green said: This year's strong outcomes for our young people are thoroughly deserved after the efforts of these students and the team of staff."

Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath had 63 per cent earning three or more passes, a four per cent increase on last year.

Heather the life-saver has won St John award

A YOUTH leader has been named St John Ambulance's Volunteer of the Year for the West Midlands.

Heather Griffiths, aged 34, from Halesowen, has been honoured by the first aid charity. The Volunteer of the Year title is awarded to a St John Ambulance volunteer who has 'excelled at learning, teaching, practising or supporting first aid to an exemplary level'.

Heather, a young persons' service lead at the St John Ambulance unit in Halesowen, was nominated for the award after saving the life of a stranger in Brierley Hill last August.

A volunteer with the first aid charity since the age of six, Heather spotted a man sitting on the pavement, looking pale and very unwell. She stopped to see if he was OK and was told that he had been feeling unwell for weeks, and while she was calling an ambulance, the man collapsed onto the busy road. With the help of bystanders, Heather got him back onto the pavement and put him into the recovery position. He stopped breathing and Heather started CPR. She continued until paramedics arrived and re-started his heart with a defibrillator.

Heather said: "I'm just glad I was there to help, and that my years of training with St John Ambulance prepared me to deal with situations like this."

Steve Hargreaves, regional director for St John Ambulance said: "Heather's story is the very essence of what St John Ambulance is about - ordinary people doing extraordinary things through first aid."

Fuel station in bid to expand

A PETROL station near Stourbridge is set to expand, with more filling pumps and parking spaces to be provided for customers.

The plans for the BP station on Hagley Road, Oldswinford, near to the Crab-mill pub, have been recommended for approval by Dudley Council planning bosses.

Under the plans, a former central heating and plumbing specialists would be knocked down to allow the expansion of the fuel station.

A total of 11 parking spaces would be created by the move while two 80,000 litre underground fuel storage tanks would also be installed.

A final decision is set to be made by the council's planning committee next week.

School reunion for Longlands ex-pupils

FORMER students from Longlands School, in Stourbridge, are holding a reunion for all past pupils.

It will be at The Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge High Street, on September 24, at 7pm. For more details see www.longlandsschool.co.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Work to begin on new town car park

WORK on a new car park in Dudley town centre will start in the next few weeks.

The first phase of Dudley Council's 90-space car park is near completion with the demolition of the Mahoe Centre expected to end this summer - making way for work to start on the car park.

Chiefs said the Tower Street car park will improve the street scene of Tower Street by opening up views to Baylies Hall and Dudley Castle.

Work is due to be completed in time for Christmas shopping.

More star quality in Aladdin cast

BRITAIN'S Got Talent finalist Lucy Kay and magician Stefan Pejic have been added to the line-up of Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's pantomime.

Soprano Kay will play Princess Jasmine in Aladdin and illusionist Pejic will play the evil sorcerer, Abanazar.

They join Joe McElderry as Aladdin, Lisa Riley as the Slave of the Ring, CBeebies' Ben Faulks as the Chief of the Peking Police, Doreen Tipton as the Lazy Empress of China. Aladdin runs from December 10 to January 22 at the Lichfield Street theatre.

Minister praises fresh care model

A GOVERNMENT minister visited health commissioners in Dudley to find out about new models of care.

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Community Health and Care, David Mowat MP, visited Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group. He said: "Patients and staff are seeing real benefits of the exciting new care models programme in Dudley. It's great to see local GPs and social care teams working together to deliver individual care packages for patients."

Print firm growing with major investment

A PRINT manufacturer based in Lye has completed a major investment.

Customark Limited has invested £465,000 in facilities, equipment and staff in the last 12 months.

Over an 18-month period the firm has employed an additional 20 staff.

The investment has seen the Lye site benefit from three additional roll-to-roll digital printers as well as a flat-bed digital printer, enabling the capability to print on most materials, shapes and intricate components.

Bicycle made for two

AN APPEAL launched by a sight-loss charity to buy a £250 tandem bicycle is almost on target after one donor contributed more than half the cost. Staff at Sedgley's Beacon Centre want to launch a tandem cycle club for people who would be accompanied by a sighted guide.

Prison after bungling bank robber really slips up

A CROOK who backed a loser when he tried to rob a bank armed with a betting slip, has begun a lengthy prison sentence.

Jason Philips scribbled a warning on the back of the slip when he claimed to have a nail bomb and gun. The 35-year-old passed the note over the counter to a member of staff at Lloyds Bank in High Street, Sedgley, after waiting until there were no other customers around.

Miss Sally Hancox, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that the move backfired when the teller showed the message to the other cashiers on duty. They all followed the security procedure, stood up and walked into a rear office, leaving the hapless robber alone and empty-handed.

Philips, from Hunton Road, Erdington, was "off his head" on cocaine, the court heard.

Police shown CCTV of the incident recognised the culprit, who had previous convictions involving 172 offences, and he was arrested in Kidderminster on July 20. His fingerprints were found on the betting slip and a carrier bag he left at the bank.

Mr Gareth Morley, defending, said: "He accepts that his behaviour caused shock, distress and fear but it was doomed to fail."

Philips, who had been jailed in February 2012 for robberies on supermarkets in Wombourne, Wordsley and Sedgley, pleaded guilty to the attempted robbery at the bank and was jailed for three years and four months.

Court date for robbery accused

STAFF at a bookmakers near Stourbridge were threatened with a shotgun during a terrifying raid, one of a spate of robberies or attempted robberies.

The first attack occurred when a man burst into William Hill in Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, armed with a double-barrelled shotgun at around 9pm on August 12. A Sainsbury's Local nearby was then robbed an hour later. On August 15, there was an attempted robbery at William Hill in Brettle Lane, Ambicote.

Michael Webb, 37, of Kingsway, Stourbridge, appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court in connection with the robbery spree. He has yet to enter a plea and is to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on September 15.

Forget Me Not fundraiser in park

A FORGET Me Not Fete is being held at a park in Dudley on Saturday. The event in Buffery Park from 11am to 4pm is to raise funds for Ward C3 at Russells Hall Hospital which provides care for people with dementia.

Teenage thugs admit brutal attack

FIVE thugs who left a football fan battered, bloodied and fighting for his life have pleaded guilty to their parts in the vicious crime.

Joseph Lister and Daniel Lloyd, both 19, and a youth who cannot be named for legal reasons, pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm to Watford fan Nic Cruwys after Wolves' home clash against the Hornets on March 7 last year.

Ryan Meer, 19, pleaded guilty to affray, and Robert Beech, also 19, pleaded not guilty to affray, but guilty to threatening behaviour, which was accepted by the Crown. All five were acquitted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent, after a trial which lasted almost two weeks.

The guilty pleas of the men came after a CCTV

gaffe by the Crown Prosecution Service. Footage initially shown to barristers and jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court was a condensed resolution version that had been zoomed in on. Then, after barristers saw the original version in which the clothing of the attackers was clearer, they instructed the defendants to change their pleas.

Mr Cruwys was punched to the ground in Littles Lane, Wolverhampton, before more thugs laid into him while he was on the floor. He was left unconscious and ended up in a coma after the attack.

Lister, of Palmer Close, Wednesfield; Lloyd, of Longfellow Road, Sedgley; Meer, of Watling Street, Gailey; Beech, of Springhill Road, Wednesfield and the youth will all be sentenced on September

9 pending probation service reports. It is expected the 14-year-old who pleaded guilty to grievous bodily harm with intent will be sentenced at the same time.

Judge Simon Ward told the five that they should steel themselves for time behind bars. On the matter of the poor quality CCTV footage, Judge Ward added: "I am surprised and not at all impressed that this has come to light at such a late stage."

All five were bailed on conditions that they do not attend any regulation football matches, do not go into Wolverhampton city centre between the hours of 10am and 11pm on any day that Wolves are playing and don't travel to any city where Wolves are playing that day.

"WHEN you go to a game of football with a friend, you hope to go home with them."

Two sets of supporters had enjoyed a pulsating encounter at Molineux between quality Championship sides vying for promotion.

The highly entertaining game between Wolves and Watford in March 2015 ended 2-2 and most supporters of both teams would probably have agreed it was a fair result.

Aside from the usual banter between opposition fans, nothing out of the ordinary occurred in the stands during the game. So it came as a massive shock when news filtered through that a Watford supporter had been seriously hurt after leaving the stadium, particularly when it became clear Nic Cruwys had been severely beaten by a large group.

Last week those men admitted to being involved in that attack in Littles Lane. Joseph Lister, of Palmer Close, Wednesfield, and Daniel Lloyd, of Longfellow Road, Sedgley, both aged 19, and a youth who cannot be identified because of his age pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm.

Ryan Meer, 19, of Watling Street, Gailey, pleaded guilty to affray and Robert Beech, also 19, of Springhill Road, Wednesfield, admitted threatening behaviour. They had all previously denied causing grievous bodily harm with intent but pleaded guilty to lesser charges.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the 44-year-old Watford fan was with friends on their way to The Blue Brick pub, near the rail station, for a drink before catching a 6pm train home. But they were confronted by between 15 and 20 youths and set upon. Mr Cruwys was left in a pool of blood as the gang weighed in with kicks and punches. The brutal attack left him in a coma for weeks.

Wolves fan Richard Cooke told the court how he came to the aid of Mr Cruwys after the attack.

"You don't expect to see what I saw, when you go to a game of football with a friend, you hope to go home with them," he said.

Mr Cooke said he spotted the throng of youths and it was as if they were 'baying for blood'.

Mr Cruwys spent four months at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and underwent a gruelling rehabilitation process, which included occupational therapy and speech therapy. He was able to return home to his family last summer.

In March, almost a year to the day since the attack, Mr Cruwys walked onto Watford's Vicarage Road pitch to thank everyone who had supported him, including Wolves fan Ollie Floyd who set up a Just Giving fundraising page for him. He continues to travel to watch his beloved Watford play.



Littles Lane in Wolverhampton city centre, scene of the vicious attack on Watford fan Nic Cruwys



Victim Nic Cruwys spent four months in hospital



Daniel Lloyd, of Sedgley, was among the attackers

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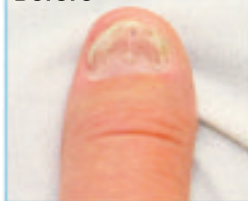
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Before



After



THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AND off to the hairdresser's where the lad in the next seat is telling the barber how to turn him into a Peaky Blinder. Razor-cut up the neck, clippers up the back of the head and a mop of unkempt hair to top it off. It is a shame no-one has told him that he's never going to look like a Peaky Blinder because he hasn't got a face like Cillian Murphy. Sure enough, the lad emerges from the barber's looking nothing like a 1930s Birmingham gangster but resembling a roughly-uprooted carrot. There are a lot of them about.

WHY so many daft haircuts? Presumably so that when the kids report for school next month they can fulfil that ancient English tradition of being sent home again. You can feel it in the air like the gathering chill of autumn. Stupid kids with stupid haircuts and stupid parents bleating about their human rights. Another school year approaches and with it the old, old question. Who'd be a teacher?

THE independent inquiry into child abuse now has its fourth chairwoman, Alexis Jay. It has yet to hear a single word of evidence and could last for up to 12 years. I cannot help wondering how long the late, great News of the World would have taken to interview the witnesses and name and shame the guilty. Six months max?

OWN up. Did you not punch the air with joy at the report of a judge subjecting a thugish defendant to a taste of his own foul language? "You're a bit of a ****,"



John Hennigan told Judge Patricia Lynch at Chelmsford Crown Court. "You are a bit of a **** yourself," replied the judge. "Go **** yourself!" exclaimed Hennigan. "You, too," responded the judge. So far, so good. A fat slob who racially abused a woman and her children gets sent down with some Anglo-Saxon language ringing in his ears. And then someone complained. They always do, don't they? In this case an unspecified number of complaints has been made to the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office. Judge Lynch may be disciplined. And that will satisfy the sort of silly, dangerous people who believe that justice is never fully served until a villain is exonerated and a law enforcer is punished. There is a word for such people but I'm running out of asterisks.

I TAKE the same view of allotments that I do of steam railways and vintage cars. I'm always glad that other people are looking after them.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Bowlers take matters into own hands

MEMBERS of two bowling clubs could take over the running of a council bowling green.

The Black Country Bowls Club and Crystal Bowls Club, both based in Dudley, want to lease the borough's only flat bowling green in Stevens Park, Wollescote, for ten years.

Dudley Council bosses say they are now working with the members to find a suitable way forward.

It comes after it was announced last year that bowling clubs across the borough face a staggering hike in maintenance fees – of up to £12,000 – as the cash-strapped council aims to save £20 million by 2018. Clubs currently only pay £750 towards the costs.

Worried members of the park's bowling clubs say they are now appealing to the council to take on

the maintenance of the green themselves.

Black Country Bowls Club secretary Brian Simmonds said: "They told us we would have to either accept the fees or take over the running ourselves. We now see the only way forward is for us to take on the green."

"There were complications with the Stevens Trust saying that under the deed of gift land cannot be given

away, but we feel that surely it could be leased to us.

"The worrying thing for us is that if we are not careful members will go elsewhere, which is incredibly sad."

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are working with the bowls club, our legal department and other park user groups to look at the detail of this request."

Work on fast food outlets has started

Report by Clare Butler

A MULTI-MILLION pound restaurant development has got under way in Stourbridge in a long-awaited scheme.

The site off Mill Race Lane will include McDonald's and KFC drive-thru branches, with the name of a third unit yet to be announced.

Plans were first granted permission back in August 2014, but due to a series of construction delays, work only officially got under way this month.

Councillor Nick Barlow, who represents the Stourbridge Town ward, said he welcomed the beginning of work on the 'long overdue' development.

He said: "Everyone is really happy that at long last the build has begun, as it has looked such a mess for so long. It will get more footfall into the town and create employment, which is always good news. It is a good opportunity all round."

Jobs

It is thought that at least 65 full and part-time jobs will be created by McDonald's – which is returning to the town – with a further 40 positions expected to be available at the KFC restaurant.

A 66-space car park will be built between the units.

Concerns about access to the site and a potential increase in rubbish were raised when the proposals were first revealed.

Councillor Barlow added: "There have been a few concerns about cars and anti-social behaviour but I think that's something that won't happen as it will be monitored well."

"The traffic will be coming off towards Amblecote and not back on the ring road as some feared, so it should have a sensible road layout. We have got to be mindful of litter but I believe that both chains are good at keeping that under control."

A spokesman for A&H Construction said the work should be finished by March next year.

Generosity saves museum money



They fly in to help – Lee Despard and Callum Young with the museum's David Williams and Ray Disney

A JOB that could have cost the Black Country Living Museum thousands of pounds, has been completed free of charge thanks to the generosity of two companies.

The museum in Tipton Road feared it would be facing a huge bill when they discovered that two chimney flues at the Edwardian St James' School needed to be replaced.

Museum staff approached companies for quotes to replace the flues, replicas which were fitted in 1991.

Luckily Worcestershire Chimney Services and Midtherm, in Dudley, agreed to do the work for free, though it could have cost thousands of pounds.

Between them, the firms created a modern, safer version of the existing flues that would still fit in with the

period style of the classroom. Thanks to custom-made parts and three days' worth of labour was needed.

Lee Despard, owner of Worcestershire Chimney Services, said: "We and Midtherm decided that we would offer our services for free. We just wanted to play a part in preserving it for future generations to enjoy. My family have got some good memories from the school. It's been a really satisfying job."

Emily Jones, marketing manager at Midtherm, added: "It has been a pleasure working with both Worcestershire Chimney Services and the Black Country Living Museum."

"We are very pleased to be a part of the local heritage and to help out where we can."

Pregnant cannabis grower is spared jail

A PREGNANT mother-of-two caught cultivating a £26,000 cannabis farm in a room at her home has been spared jail by a judge.

Karen Bate, who was of previous good character, was told by Judge James Burbidge QC: "You are entitled to one mess up in your life."

The 26-year-old had 33 plants growing in an upstairs bedroom when police raided her home on March 1, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Mr Joanne Barker, prosecuting, said: "There was a relatively sophisticated hydroponic system. The electricity supply had also been by-passed."

The set up was capable of producing up to £29,000 worth of cannabis, the court heard.

Bate told police that she was breaking the law to pay off a debt.

Chance

She made it clear that she would not have sold the drugs but could have received 'a little bit' in return.

Bate, of Quarry Bank, pleaded guilty to producing cannabis and abstracting electricity.

She was given a six-month jail term suspended for a year and ordered to carry out 60 hours of unpaid work.

Judge Burbidge said: "You have been very foolish in committing this crime but it seems that somebody else was behind your criminal activity."

"As a result of those external pressures I will give you a chance."

Tory MP praises latest job figures

THE latest unemployment figures showing 186,000 more people are in work across the West Midlands have been welcomed by Kinver's MP

Gavin Williamson, Conservative MP for South Staffordshire, also welcomed statistics showing the number of people claiming key out of work benefits in his constituency had fallen by 965, a 60 per cent drop, since 2010.

Mr Williamson said: "The latest figures show employment is growing across all the regions and nations of the United Kingdom as we build a Britain that works for everyone not just the privileged few."

"Nevertheless, we aren't complacent, which is why we're pressing ahead with welfare reforms like Universal Credit making sure it pays for people to be in work."

Town's youth choir is seeking more singers

A CHOIR for young people starts rehearsals next month.

Got 2 Sing Youth Choir Stourbridge is open to young singers aged nine to 16. Its repertoire includes pop songs and musical theatre numbers. Call 03330 146164.

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Taxpayers pick up bill for more than 40 funerals

DUDLEY Council arranged 44 public health funerals, known as 'pauper funerals', in a 12-month period from April 2015.

In 11 of the funerals the deceased had no next of kin.

That marked a 19 per cent decrease on the 2014/15 financial year when the authority funded 58 public health funerals.

At the time the council's cabinet member for adult and community services suggested the high demand for pauper's funerals may reflect the fact that many people were struggling financially.

In 2013/14 there had been just 29 paupers' funerals across the borough. That year council bosses hiked the cost of cremations by seven per cent as part of its savings plan.

Dudley Council is the only authority in the Black Country and Staffordshire to routinely publish details of pauper's funerals.

Up and down the country local authorities have a duty under public health law to dispose of bodies where the deceased died alone or there are no relatives able to pay.

The funerals involve a basic service before the deceased is cremated or buried.

Earlier this year Co-operative Funeralcare signed up to a new campaign aimed at tackling the rising cost of funerals where relatives are able to foot the bill. It agreed to display a full range of prices online and at its funeral homes, one of the aims of the Fair Funerals campaign.

Team triathlon trio have target

A TRIO of accountants and business advisers from Dudley are gearing up to take part in a triathlon to help disadvantaged children.

David Baker, Tracie Clements and Wendy Knowles, from Blue Sky Corporate Finance, in Dudley, have signed up to take part in the Impetus - PEF Private Equity Triathlon, being held in Berkshire on September 17.

The money raised will support work to transform the lives of disadvantaged children and young people via education and jobs.

Wendy will swim 400m, David aims to cycle more than 21km and Tracie to run 5km. They aim to raise at least £500.

To given a donation visit justgiving.com/fundraising/BlueSky-3473438

Blood donation sessions at hall

BLOOD donors are being urged to attend sessions in Brierley Hill today (Thursday). They are being held 2pm to 3.30 and 4.30 to 7.30pm on August 25 at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street. Call 0300 1232323.

Work gets under way on college building



Work is taking place on Dudley Advance II

WORK is progressing on Dudley College's new £12 million development, as this latest photograph shows.

The college's new construction and manufacturing building, Dudley Advance II, will sit alongside the existing £9m Dudley Advance facility at the site in Priory Road.

Work is well under way with contractors having divided the land ready for the building work to start.

When complete, the 37,000 sq ft centre will include workshops, classrooms, project spaces, resource areas, welfare and support facilities around

a four-storey building called The Hanger. It is being built on a former car park on Priory Road.

College principal Lowell Williams hailed the progress on the site as 'amazing'. He said: "It's fantastic to see Dudley Advance II coming to life."

"This exciting new facility will offer technical qualifications for the construction and manufacturing industries of the future."

"It will be truly cutting-edge, creating great new apprenticeship, training and job opportunities, while helping to up-skill current employees."

And it's amazing that this will all be happening here in Dudley, in our Learning Quarter."

Work on Dudley Advance II is being carried out for the college by contractors Speller Metcalfe.

The firm's managing director Des O'Neill said: "Now we are in the early construction stages, it is fantastic to see Advance II making good progress on the ground. As a local contractor we have also been delighted to see many of our supply chain employed directly from the local area."

Planning blow as now council face paying costs

A COUNCIL faces the double blow of paying a firm's costs having already seen two of its planning refusals overturned on appeal.

Dudley Council's planning committee turned down plans by New River Retail for two supermarkets at pub sites.

One involved demolishing Halesowen's Maypole Inn and replacing it with a store, while the other was for a store to be built next to the Ashwood Inn in Wordsley.

Both were turned down because of existing convenience stores in the area and concerns were also put forward about parking.

But both decisions were overturned on appeal by an independent planning inspectorate.

Inspector Mr Michael Boniface also invited the applicant to submit costs, citing in both cases 'unreasonable behaviour resulting in unnecessary or wasted expense'.

The application will be made to the council and an agreement made over the amount eventually paid out.

Asset

The Maypole, on Bassnag Road, was listed as an 'asset of community value' and it was said the planning committee on a site visit found parking problems.

In a report, the inspector criticised the council's submitted evidence, stating: "Very little empirical evidence was provided and concerns appear to relate more to the general traffic conditions in the area."

The proposal on Ashwood Inn was to build a store in the pub car park but the venue itself would not be affected. Mr Boniface said the applicant had submitted its case on highway and parking matters, which had been accepted by the council's planning and highways officers. But it was not 'robustly explained' by the council following its refusal how the development might create issues of highway safety.

He said: "It is clear to me the council has prevented or delayed development that should clearly have been permitted. I therefore find unreasonable behaviour resulting in unnecessary or wasted expense, as described in the planning practice guidance, has been demonstrated and a full award of costs is justified."

A third application to demolish the Summer House in Woodsetton to replace it with a supermarket, refused by the council, was also overturned at appeal but the inspector said costs were not justified for that case.

Derelict factory gutted by blaze



The damage to the old Batchit Ltd factory on Halesowen Road, in Netherton, after last week's major fire

BLACK scorch marks, smashed glass and gaping holes show the damage after a huge blaze at a derelict factory.

Huge plumes of smoke could be seen billowing from the roof of the old Batchit Ltd factory on Halesowen Road, in Netherton last Wednesday night.

Six fire crews were sent to the scene near the Saltwells Road junction at around 9.45pm, with firefighters from Oldbury, Brier-

ley Hill, Stourbridge, Haden Cross, Tipton and Dudley in attendance.

An aerial platform was also dispatched as crews worked through the night to prevent the blaze from spreading.

West Midlands Fire Service confirmed that no residents were evacuated but sections of Halesowen Road were closed while the fire was being tackled. Firefighters arrived within five minutes

of the first 999 call. Investigators are trying to pinpoint the cause, which is being treated as suspicious.

At its height there were 35 firefighters battling the blaze, which has caused substantial damage. They used water from the nearby canal.

The fire was out by around 1am last Thursday morning but one crew remained to make the site safe until around 6am.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Merry Hill to get new bus shelters

BUS shelters at Merry Hill bus station are to be replaced soon.

Intu, which owns the shopping centre, has been given the green light to bring in larger shelters.

Shopping centre bosses are aiming to make progress with the plans for the revamp of the bus station as a whole over the coming months.

The centre is currently in talks with Transport for West Midlands about the scheme to improve the bus station.

New shelters are expected to be installed within the next few weeks.

Summer fun day for Brierley Hill

CHILDREN are being offered an array of exciting activities at Brierley Hill next month.

The Summer Fun Play Day takes place on Thursday, September 1, at the Moor Centre from 11am to 3pm.

There will be sand pits, story telling, free face painting, arts and crafts, giant games and much more to keep the young ones entertained during the play day.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Visit www.discoverdudleyevents.co.uk or call Jacki Wynn on (01384) 817 817.

Cancer charity is packing a punch

A COSELEY-based charity that raises awareness of cancers that affect men is inviting supporters to get into the boxing ring.

Balls for Cancer wants people to train for charity bouts that take place to raise money for its work.

Both men and women can sign up online at www.ballstocancer.co.uk/boxing-for-btc website. Balls to Cancer has been going since 2011 and helps men with cancer and their families.

Great way to learn about King Alfred

THE life of Alfred the Great will be explored during a history talk in Stourbridge.

Historian Max Keen will start the autumn programme for Stourbridge Historical Society on September 15 with a talk entitled Alfred The Great: The Most Fortunate King. It takes place in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall from 7.30pm. For further information visit www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com or call David Hickman on (01384) 274014.

Store boost for charity

A SUPERMARKET in Stourbridge has raised more than £700 for charity in one weekend.

Staff at the Amblecote branch of Sainsbury's donated an impressive £712 to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People following a weekend of fundraising that took place from August 5 to 7.

Advertisement

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople

perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Stourbridge & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes

good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



A sporting well done, but relief it's all over

DRIVING home from work, my attention was drawn to three girls of about 20 lurking in the bushes of a busy country road with no footpath, staring at their phones. Apparently it's called Pokémon. Which is strange, because I always thought pokémon was the bloke you call when the chimney's blocked.

ALSO, what is all this walking around with bottled water about? Is playing Pokémon really such thirsty work?

Everywhere you look, there seem to be teenagers wandering about with a bottle of Evian in one hand and their mobile in the other.

All I can say is they must have really strong bladders.

SO that's it for the Olympics, and once again the lads and lasses have done us proud. Finishing second, ahead of mighty China, is a remarkable achievement, and a welcome tonic after the abject failure of the England football team and the frustrating inconsistency of the cricket side.

But, whisper it quietly, am I the only one who is also a little relieved it is now out of the way? Was the wall-to-wall coverage of minority sports really justified?

The other Friday, there was a horse trotting round a pound in circles. I assumed it was a warm-up, but it turned out to be the main event. Dressage they call it. I've seen more action at Crufts.

Then there's gymnastics. I know those taking part are terribly good, with a discipline and work-ethic to put many footballers to shame. But it's not a spectator sport, is it?

When I was at school gymnastics was what the unsporty kids did to avoid too much physical exertion. I loved it. Got a certificate and everything.

Most of, all, the news coverage has been ridiculous. I stopped watching the BBC breakfast news because the first 15 minutes of every bulletin was about pole-vaulting and the like.

As I said, well done to all who took part. But can we get back to normal now? It's just that I like my news bulletins to have a bit of, well, news in them.

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn has been accused of being out of touch because he did not recognise Ant and Dec when shown pictures of the pair. Why?

There are lots of things you can criticise the beleaguered politician for, but if he has managed to avoid I'm A Celebrity, Britain's Got Talent, and Saturday Night Takeaway, then good for him.

Ant and Dec are the televisual equivalent of keg lager or cheap plonk.

Most of us have experienced them at some time or other, but it's not something to shout about.



The walking party which conquered Ben Nevis



Walkers raised £9,000 for the Dudley mayor's charities



Bert making his last climb up Ben Nevis at the age of 89

How Bert inspired us to walk up mountains

NATHAN BRIANT tells how the memory of Bert Bissell, the peace campaigner, will always live on, helping so many others

THE weather was poor but that didn't stop a party from Dudley commemorating a legendary peace campaigner from the town for the third consecutive year.

Legendary is a word often overused, but it is appropriate for Bert Bissell, whose life and work is not only commemorated in his home town but also 390 miles away, in Fort William in Scotland.

He took countless trips with young people, showing them Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. Fort William is the nearest town to the mountain. He was instrumental in maintaining links between Fort William, Dudley and Hiroshima, one of the two Japanese cities obliterated by an American atomic bomb at the end of the Second World War.

Memorial

In 1985, he unveiled a memorial to the links established between the three places.

And perhaps his most productive trip up Ben Nevis took place in 1945. It was Victory over Japan Day, or VJ Day, and Bert, who lived on Selborne Road, led a pilgrimage party from the Bible class to the summit and constructed a 'peace cairn' to commemorate the end of the Second World War. It is this which is immortalised by the trekkers.

And to recognise the impact he had on so many people's lives and his attitude towards world peace, 28 people from the Black Country walked the 10-mile round trip, with its incline of more than 4,000 ft, up the mountain recently to raise money for charities.

Councillor Steve Waltho said: "We kicked off in rainy conditions. There were about 20 of us and it was a battle to be honest - there are so few times when I have seen so much



Bert Bissell climbing Ben Nevis on November 11, 1972, to lay a wreath

water [on Ben Nevis]. When we were there the conditions weren't good and it just made it more treacherous. I have got £300 to £400 from people from work. I would say we are going to exceed £5,000. It'll probably be much higher than that.

"We think it's just the real appeal of the event over three years. For three years myself, [Dudley MP] Ian Austin and [fellow Dudley councillor] Dave Tyler came together; Ian knows the Bissell family. The first year attracted 10 or 11 walkers; in 2015 there were 15 and this year it attracted the most ever."

He added: "The very first year we contacted a councillor up there. He's very interested in what we are trying to do up there. There are three stained glass windows moved from Dudley to Fort William [to mark Mr Bissell's contribution]."

"Bert was 96 when he died in 1998. He

started the Bible club back in 1925 in Bicken Street. He is usually credited as being Dudley's first probation officer - even before probation officers existed. He used to take young people and set them on the right path. But he took a whole interest in world peace.

"And there is a peace cairn at the top of Ben Nevis, made by the groups of young people taken up there and of course Bert himself. He was an absolute phenomenon. I don't know of any other person who has the freedom of two different boroughs. He was recognised in Fort William and Dudley."

But despite Councillor Waltho's admiration, there is one regret he has - that he never got to meet Mr Bissell himself, never got to speak to him about his ideals. He attended a meeting in the mid-1990s at which Mr Bissell spoke, but he never met him.

Mr Bissell begun taking Bible classes up

Snowdon in Wales then went to Ben Nevis for the first time in the early 1930s. It was there he formed a lifelong love for that range. He is a well-known figure in Fort William; he used to give talks to hundreds of schoolchildren.

The Highland Council's Councillor Thomas MacLennan said: "I'm 53 and the relationship with Dudley and Fort William was really strong. They came up again three years ago and Bert Bissell is well known in Fort William."

Such was the impact that when Mr Bissell talked at schools in the town, people remember them decades on.

Mr Bissell's family arrived in the Black Country in the 1920s from Yorkshire. Born in 1902, he was one of five sons, their father a Methodist minister. He helped young people for decades and the regular blood donor was rewarded for his service when he was awarded an MBE in 1959. His life is commemorated with a monument opposite Dudley Council House in Coronation Gardens.

Astley Blake, who now runs the Bible class Bert set up along with other campaigners Damian Corfield, Shaz Saleem and Steve Rayner and former Dudley police chief Richard Green, also took part.

Charities

The party included Dudley's Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif and other councillors Keiran Casey and Cathryn Bayton. They were also helped by National Express, who sponsored the climb. They provided a coach for the stretch from the Black Country to Scotland and back again - a journey of nearly 800 miles.

All funds raised this year will go to the Councillor Hanif's chosen charities for the year. They are the Friends of Alfie Johnson - which helps children with disabilities - the Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living and Diabetes UK.

The town legend was a friend of the Austin family and someone current Dudley North MP Ian Austin MP knew well as a child. Mr Austin said in June: "It goes to show the enduring legacy of Bert's work in the community."

* Donations in Mr Bissell's memory can be donated online at bertbissellmemorialwalk.co.uk

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Don't wait for another tragedy on road

SO council bosses have decided that following investigation of the tragic death of a father-of-eight on 'death road' Oakham Road, it was decided that changes were not needed and only a small majority of cars monitored were found to be speeding.

I would challenge Councillor Hilary Bills and any member of the authority's highway section, along with any member of the police, to accompany me on any week day between 8 and 9am and 4 and 5.30pm to attempt to cross this road by one of the so-called local safety schemes.

Perhaps if you bring along a toddler in a pushchair or your elderly relative with a walking stick to cross with us you may realise the dangers involved.

Volume of traffic along this road has increased dramatically since road traffic measures at Burnt Tree.

The 'local safety scheme' mentioned is, I assume, the recent road markings displaying a pushchair and woman crossing. The positioning of these road markings by the junction of Tansley Hill Road means anyone attempting to cross here has to cross virtually on a blind bend whilst watching two

other junctions for cars filtering into Oakham Road.

No cars ever give way for you to cross and given the dangerous position most would not choose to cross here.

I walk along this road regularly between 4 and 6pm and would say on average between 20 and 40 cars whizz past you, some at excessive speeds, before you have the opportunity to cross safely. Please don't wait for another tragedy to happen before some form of road calming measures are considered.

RUTH CRAWFORD
Dudley

Esther in call to 'Bag It, Beat It'

THIS September is Women and Heart Disease Awareness Month at the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and I'm writing to ask your readers to help fund vital research by taking part our in 'Bag It, Beat It' campaign.

I've donated to my local shop and I'd encourage all your readers to do the same. Fill a bag with unwanted clothes, shoes, books, handbags, DVDs, CDs, bric-a-brac and children's toys, to 'Bag It, Beat It'. Donations will help the BHF fund life-saving heart research.

Coronary heart disease is the single biggest killer in the UK, causing the deaths of over 6,410 people in the West Midlands each year, over 2,540 of which are women, but with the continued support of the community the BHF can fight harder to reduce this figure. To find your local BHF shop visit www.bhf.org.uk/bagit or to book a free collection call 0808 250 0024.

DAME ESTHER RANTZEN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

EMAIL

[dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk)

Speed cameras make roads more dangerous

WE hear that speed cameras are due to be turned back on in some areas. I have nothing against cameras, even though I fell foul of one many years ago, but I have a theory that cameras actually cause speeding.

In the days before cameras, drivers would naturally go at a speed which they thought safe and reasonable for the road they were on. In the real world this meant in a 30mph limit they be round about that. The police were plentiful in their panda cars and would not stop someone doing, say, 33mph. Drivers understood to be sensible. It seems to me that we have now bred a generation of drivers who only think they need to moderate their speed where there are cameras. Anywhere else they drive at whatever speed they want, usually far too fast to react to a situation.

I liken it to the use of double yellow lines to control parking. There was a time before lines were painted everywhere when drivers understood where they could park and where it was unsafe to park.

I hope that with modern technology we soon have hidden cameras moved around and that I no longer have drivers tailgating me when I try to keep to the speed limits.

RON WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

Plea to help dog shelter in Romania

LAST year we appealed for help to support Amicii Dog Shelter in Romania.

This small dedicated shelter offers sanctuary to 200 dogs rescued from the streets and the vile inhumane public shelters.

Can you help them again?

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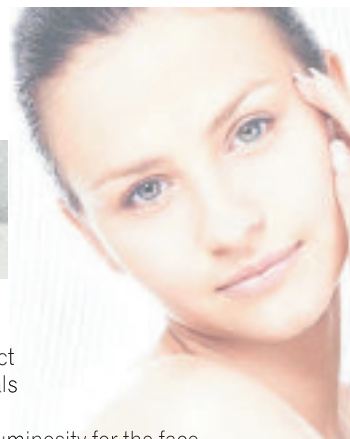
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A cracking shot of children enjoying VE Day – Victory in Europe Day – on Tuesday, May 8, 1945 in Gordon Street, Wolverhampton



Birmingham Street, Dudley, in the 1920s – another insatiable place. Thanks to Dudley Archives & Local History



North Street, Wolverhampton, in the early 20th Century – an area of bad-quality housing but strong neighbourhood loyalties. Thanks to Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies

A time when we mattered more than you or I, in the community

WE live in a 'me and mine' world. The cult of the individual, of 'doing it for me', of watching out for myself, and of 'it's nothing to do with me' has been proclaimed from the highest level and has pervaded all aspects of society.

We spend our time looking out for ourselves, watching our backs, getting on with our own lives – and more and more we are on our own.

We live at the back of our houses and in our back gardens. Our front door step is used only as an access into our private space, not to stand upon and look out at the life of the street and engage with it.

We don't join clubs like we used to and we don't flock to the rec as once we did to play games of 20 a-side football.

Our eyes are turned resolutely away from the public sphere and focused instead on our own little world. We sit transfixed by texting on our mobile phones, we com-

MEMORY LANE

By Professor Carl Chinn

municate with our computers, we play with hi-tech equipment, and we watch satellite television that tells us of goings on across the world when we know so little about what's happening around the corner.

And when we do go outside we head as fast as we can for our cars to place ourselves safely within an extension of our home.

We have become more insular and less neighbourly. This is a rapid reversal of the world in which so many of us grew up.

That was indeed a 'we and ours world' where everything was part of a pool into which everyone could dip.

That sense of mutuality was highlighted by the Co-op, building societies and trade unions, but its roots lay firmly in the family. Very little was owned individually, everything belonged to each member, be they young or old.

Mothers and fathers worked not for their

own benefit but for the wellbeing of the family as a collective unit and taught their children the same belief.

But it was not only the good things that were shared, so too were hardships – and hardships abounded in working-class England. If an old person had no fuel, someone would give them a bucket of slack. If a man was injured or killed in an accident at work, then the neighbours would pull together to help his widow and children get by.

Women, especially older women, were at the centre of this community action.

They found out what was happening through gossip. If a woman was ill, someone would always feed her kids and do her washing. If she was in labour, an old lady would come and help with the birth.

When someone died, another old lady would lay them out so that the family and neighbours could pay their respects, whilst yet another old lady would collect the money from the neighbours for the wreath.

And it was also respected old women who would arrange the charabanc trips to the

country or the seaside and the street parties that celebrated the great events in the life of the nation, like VE Day and the Coronation of the Queen.

On Tuesday May 8, 1945, that day's papers carried the news that it was "VE Day Today". In the West Midlands, as elsewhere, VE Day was marked by the pealing of church bells, the relaying by loudspeakers of the King's broadcast speech at 9pm, parades of Civil Defence organisations, and, of course, street parties.

Overnight, men and women had happily hung up bunting and flags, and it seemed that the poorer the neighbourhood the more colourful and plentiful were the decorations that garlanded the streets.

As the preparations were made, they were accompanied by the bangs of fireworks that some people with foresight had saved from before the war – for there had been no public sale of fireworks for six years.

The day itself was a damp one, but not even the rain could mar the cheerfulness that abounded.



An atmospheric photo showing two women walking on Brown Street, Kates Hill, Dudley, in the early 1950s

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

Flying Scotsman coming to Brum

THE world's most famous steam locomotive, Flying Scotsman, is coming to Birmingham before heading to the Severn Valley.

It will be at Tysley Locomotive Works during Birmingham Heritage Week and in steam and on public display from September 16 to 18. The iconic loco will then operate on the Severn Valley Railway between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth from September 21 to 26.

Visitors are able to purchase tickets at Tysley to walk through the corridor in the tender and onto the footplate for an explanation of the driver and fireman's controls.

The locomotive has undergone a complete overhaul and will be on loan courtesy of the National Railway Museum.

Full Details of the three-day Flying Scotsman at Tysley event, admission prices and instructions for the purchase of tickets can be found at www.VintageTrains.co.uk/FlyingScotsman website.

Roy downs tools for his second retirement



Roy Reynolds is retiring for a second time, aged 69

A RETIRING employee has been praised by the firm where he worked for more than 18 years.

Roy Reynolds, 69, retired from Dudley company Petford Tools, surrounded by colleagues thanking him for all his hard work and wishing him well.

Managing director at Petford Tools, Melvin Sinar, said: "He is a truly committed and honest gentleman and a valued member of staff who will be really missed."

He had actually taken early retirement from his previous job as an engineer in the bus industry, before he decided to enter the workplace again with the Dudley toolmakers. He was quickly promoted and ran the company's quality management systems for more than 17 years.

Mr Sinar said: "He was very well respected and a lovely gentleman." Mr Reynolds added: "I have always enjoyed going to work. It has been great to see the company grow over the years. When I started there were only about 25 people. Now it must be around 140."

The father-of-two lives with wife Sandra in Amblecote and has two grandchildren.

Shares to put £5m SVR plan on track

A £5 million scheme to improve the Severn Valley Railway will be funded by the selling of shares.

The improvements at Bridgnorth would see the addition of a 53-bed staff hostel, a station cafe and toilets. All the money raised from the share sale will be spent on the major overhaul, likely to be carried out in three phases.

The first phase will be to restore parts of the railway in the style of the Great Western Railway in the 1900s.

The original bar, waiting rooms, and a new buffet and toilets will all be developed in the first phase starting next October. The second phase will involve a new turntable being installed for engines and improvements to the car park at the top of the site. The final phase will be the building of the accommodation block for volunteers.

It is an investment that the SVR sees as bringing the station up to the same standard as the one in Kidderminster. The shares will go on sale this winter.

More black and Asian blood donors are urgently needed

MORE black and south Asian people are needed as blood donors in the Black Country.

NHS Blood and Transfer (NHS-BT) is urging people to donate blood as part of the Missing Type campaign, particularly from the black and Asian communities.

The organisation revealed 12,053 people in the Black Country, including Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall gave blood at least once last year.

But out of those were just 539 black people and 1,833 south Asian people. This is despite people from Black

and Minority Ethnic backgrounds more likely to contract illnesses including sickle cell disease which may require a blood transfusion.

Survive

Abdul Alim, aged 28, from Sandwell, has thalassaemia which leaves him constantly weak and tired due to low haemoglobin levels meaning he consequently needs two to three units of blood transfused every four weeks in order to survive.

He is of Bangladeshi background and works as a support and development worker for the OSCAR Sandwell charity.

He said: "I feel reborn after a transfusion. Blood donation is a special gift and it is like being given another life."

In England, 3.5 per cent of the population is black African or black Caribbean but only 0.64 per cent of donors are from black communities, and 5.6 per cent of the population is south Asian, yet they are only 1.1 per cent of all donors.

Low figures have been put down to several barriers including limited time to donate, lack of awareness about the problem, fear of needles and religious permissibility - despite no major religion in the UK opposing blood donation.



Abdul Alim - transfusion

Check before travel advice

PASSENGERS are being advised to check before they travel this bank holiday as rail improvement work takes place.

While more than 95 per cent of the railway will be open as usual, over 15,000 members of Network Rail's 'orange army' will be working round the clock to improve the network for millions of passengers.

Bridge improvement work on the A453 Tamworth Road between Four Oaks and Sutton Coldfield in Birmingham will mean buses replace trains between Lichfield and Aston on the Sunday until mid-afternoon.

Martin Frobisher, route managing director for Network Rail, said: "Work takes place 365 days a year as part of our Railway Upgrade Plan but we carry out larger upgrades over bank holidays when there are fewer passengers travelling."

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Friends on song to help Sam walk on his own

HUNDREDS of people attended a fundraiser for a four-year-old boy who needs a life-changing operation to help him walk.

About 250 people attended a show at the Parkes Hall Social Club in Dudley last week, entertained by singers who all gave their time at no charge to help Wednesbury boy Sam Fellows, who has cerebral palsy. He could undergo an operation to help him walk next year but £30,000 for the operation in Leeds and his after-care must be collected first.

The night raised nearly £3,000 alone and the fundraising total for the whole effort is edging towards £10,000 – after just three months collecting. Sam's mother Jen said: "It was fantastic, we had a really good time. Everyone was so generous. We are overwhelmed by it."

wheelchair. He cannot stand up on his own. He needs help at the moment but the operation will free his legs and he wouldn't be in such pain.

"When we were referred we found that the NHS had stopped the funding. We knew we were going to have to self-fund it. It'll be life changing."

Sam will be going for a meeting with a consultant in Leeds on September 12 to check whether an operation would be suitable. But Mrs Fellows said she is optimistic.

The evening was arranged by a colleague of Sam's father, Simon. Karen Bourne is the social club's entertainments secretary and regularly puts on charity nights.

Singers Louise Roberts, Stuart James, Craig Alford, Stacey Greenfox and Kay Savannah took part

To donate, visit www.gofundme.com/22p7ax7s



From left, Sam's mother and sister, Jen and Lisa, Sam, his father Simon and family friend Karen Bourne

Man who attacked partner is locked up

A CONSTRUCTION worker, who butted his partner after threatening to disfigure her, has been jailed for 20 months.

Gareth Dawson and Stacy Hilton were on their way home from a trip to Walsall Arboretum when violence flared on the No 4 bus travelling to Dudley, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

A row had been simmering between the pair – who had been drinking – since he laughed when she fell over earlier in the day.

Report by John Scott

The victim told police she was grabbed round the neck from behind and struck in the face, leaving her with a nose bleed when the argument turned ugly on June 2.

Dawson — who had 23 previous convictions involving 37 separate offences — sent Miss Hilton an alarming letter while in prison serving a sentence for another matter, explained Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting.

The 29-year-old defendant warned in the note that she would be injured so badly her own family would not recognise her.

He complained to police about the correspondence was withdrawn when the couple resumed their relationship. He slept in a tent in the garden of her home because the terms of the tenancy agreement prevented them living under the same roof.

Mr. Oliver Grimwood, defending, said: "He wrote the threatening letter from prison while at a very low ebb. He had been smoking synthetic cannabis and was recently diagnosed with a

Zoo raises the lion's share for awareness

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo helped to raise more than £145 as part of its World Lion Day celebrations.

Staff joined the global campaign to raise awareness of the endangered Asiatic lion.

The event's focus was on the zoo's trio of big cats, Jetpur, Kyra and Asha with visitors able to learn more about the species' plight with information stands in the Discovery Centre and outside the lions' one-acre paddock.

Visitors were also able to watch the three lions receive enrichment barrels, as zoo presenter Heather John explained about their threats during a one-off special talk.

They also helped to raise funds for lion conservation projects by entering an adoption raffle, with the lucky winner chosen as six year-old Ethan Pearsall from Rowley Regis, who adopted lioness, Kyra and also took home a luxury chenille Jetpur cushion as his prize. The event was held on August 10.

National Living Wage is 'an opportunity'

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James says it 'will not be acceptable' for companies to try and get around the National Living Wage by cutting employee benefits in other areas.

The Conservative MP is the Government's Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

She was responding to a question from Petitions Committee chairman Helen Jones, who raised concerns staff who work nights and at weekends could be penalised.

Ms James said: "We recognise that employers will respond to the National Living Wage in a variety of ways depending on their circumstances, but the Government does not consider it acceptable for companies to use it as an excuse to cut staff benefits.

"In a growing economy, the National Living Wage should represent an opportunity to invest in talented staff and improve productivity. Employers need to ensure their pay and reward packages are competitive to retain and develop the people they need for their business."

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100-year-old is life and soul of the party

IT was a celebration fit for a Queen as Fanny Skelding donned her glad rags and partied with family for her 100th birthday.

Mrs Skelding was showered with gifts, cake, balloons and champagne at The Brambles care home, in Stourbridge, on August 16.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, also came along to join the festivities and offer his congratulations for the momentous milestone.

Fanny was born and raised in Corngreaves Road, in Cradley Heath.

Her parents had both been widowed and re-married again, meaning Fanny had six brothers and four half-sisters.

She married her husband John in 1939 at St Luke's Church, in Cradley Heath. They had met while hop-picking and described it as 'love at first sight'.

They settled and spent their married life in Cradley Heath, having one daughter, Jill.

Fanny now has one grand-daughter Laura, one great-granddaughter Yvette and a great great grandson Hugo, aged two.

Brambles care manager, Dee Whitehouse, said: "For her age

Fanny is incredible. It is such an achievement.

"She moved in with us in August last year but before that she was still living on her own as was very independent.

"She is really popular and loved by all of the staff and residents as she made friends so easily.

"She doesn't let anything hold her back and enjoys a tipples of Baileys before bedtime too.

Soaps

"She loves watching the soaps on TV, especially Emmerdale and Coronation Street.

"It is amazing to have a resident at the care home who is at such a great age as Fanny is."

Fanny received a message from the Queen and the Department of Works and Pensions congratulating her.

The special birthday party was held in the conservatory at the Vicarage Road care home.

Ms Whitehouse added: "Fanny said she really enjoyed the day.

"All of her family and friends were present and she had a sing-song too.

"I'm sure we'll be celebrating again with her next year."



Centenarian Fanny Skelding proudly shows her congratulations card from the Queen

Folks are getting down to the 22 Push Up Challenge

COUNCILLORS, police officers and the public are rallying together to take part in the 22 Push Up Challenge.

The scheme is raising awareness for army veterans suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Dudley councillor Stuart Henley and Superintendent Keith Fraser of Wolverhampton police are among those who have been posting videos on social media in support of veterans.

The challenge consists of 22 days and 22 push ups on each day to raise awareness for the 22 ex-servicemen and women who commit suicide every day in the US from PTSD.

Mr Henley, who serves the Halesowen North ward, is on day 13 of the challenge which he is taking part in because he has friends from his time as a fire-fighter who suffer from PTSD.

Superintendent Keith Fraser and other officers from Wolverhampton Police Station have also joined the effort. He said: "One of my officers encouraged a number of colleagues to take part in the 22 push up challenge to honour those who serve and to help raise awareness for veteran suicide prevention through education. This is a worthy cause."

Zac Foster, 20, is from Darlaston and was in the Air Cadets for eight years and is now a student. He said: "I have seen the ins and outs of military lifestyle, so to me PTSD is a strong issue which is sometimes forgotten, we see soldiers move out to frontline, but we never see what happens to the soldiers on the other side. I wanted to raise awareness."

Footballer's family call for 'robust' investigation

THE family of former Aston Villa star Dalian Atkinson has welcomed the launch of a criminal probe into his death and insisted there must be a 'robust' investigation.

Two West Mercia Police officers are facing an investigation after Mr Atkinson was Tasered in Telford. The 48-year-old died 90 minutes after being shot with the stun gun in the early hours of Monday, August 15.

The retired footballer's death is being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), which insists it will carry out 'a full and thorough' inquiry. The police watchdog said it would focus on 'the level and type of force used' by officers.

In a statement released through the charity Inquest, Mr Atkinson's family said: "We are still in shock as to the circumstances in which Dalian died.

Determined

"We are determined to get justice for him, which means getting to the truth.

"We welcome the IPCC's decision that this will be a criminal investigation and emphasise their request that there should be no speculation in the media as to what happened to Dalian. This could prejudice the criminal investigation and any potential prosecution.

"We ask that anyone with information about what happened to Dalian in the early hours of Monday, August 15, contacts the IPCC.

"We are looking to the IPCC to carry out a thorough and robust investigation that will ultimately provide transparency and accountability. Dalian's memory requires nothing less."

The two officers have been served with gross misconduct notices but the IPCC stressed the launch of a criminal investigation did not necessarily mean criminal charges will follow.

Further analysis of the Taser is being carried out, the IPCC said, while a team of investigators has already



Dalian Atkinson – death probe gathered statements from 'a number of witnesses'.

IPCC Commissioner Derrick Campbell said: "Having carefully considered the evidence gathered so far, we are undertaking a criminal investigation into the circumstances surrounding Mr Atkinson's death and the level and type of force used.

"Two police officers will be interviewed under criminal caution by IPCC investigators.

"As this is a criminal investigation, the IPCC is limited in the amount of information which can be released into the public domain.

"I would ask people to be patient during the progress of our investigation and not to add to speculation about the circumstances of Mr Atkinson's death."

Mr Atkinson was Tasered after police were called to a disturbance at his father's house in Meadow Close at 1.30am.

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A LEVEL CELEBRATIONS

Stourbridge College celebrated some fantastic A Level results last week, with a 96% pass rate overall and 25% of students achieving an A*-B grade.

There was also 100% pass rate for 16 of the A Level courses offered by the college, including Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Art and Design – Fine Art, English Language and Literature, Business Studies and Law.

Stourbridge College is part of BMet which provides A Levels across the Black Country, Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield, offering the widest choice of A Levels in the area.

After receiving her results, student, Annie Cowdell is going to the University of Nottingham to study Criminology and Sociology. "There was a huge feeling of euphoria when I saw my grades, particularly for my A* in

Sociology," said Annie who also achieved a B in English Literature and C in Psychology. The 18-year-old added: "I loved the vibe at this college and found it easy to get along with my lecturers. There are also some great facilities here, including the library."

The University of Manchester is the next destination for Katie Harper following her B grades in Sociology, Communications and Culture and C in Psychology.

"I'm so happy that all my hard work has paid off with a place at university," she said. "I've had some inspirational teachers who always took the time to make sure students did their best and were successful."

RIGHT HERE

ADVICE CAFE RIGHT HERE

Pull up a chair at the GCSE Advice Café from 25th August 2016

SCHOOL LEAVERS WHO HAVE YET TO DECIDE THEIR NEXT STEPS ARE INVITED TO VISIT STOURBRIDGE COLLEGE'S GCSE ADVICE CAFÉ TO EXPLORE THEIR OPTIONS.

The Advice Café is open from today for those interested in finding out more about the qualifications they can study to help them achieve their career goals, as well as learn more about the range of courses on offer.

The Advice Cafe at Stourbridge College opens at 10am.



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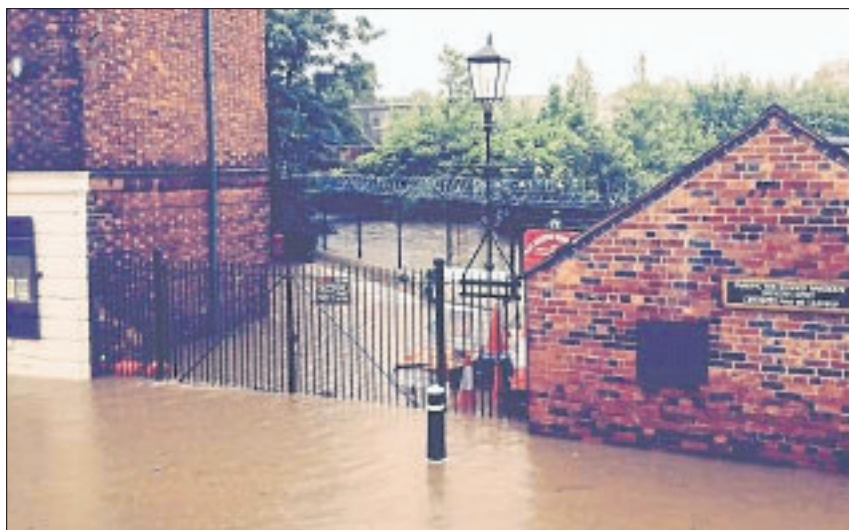
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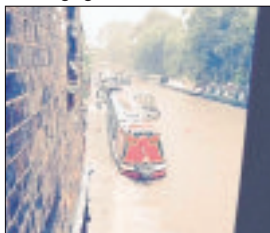


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Trust complete recovery after River Stour flood



A raging River Stour caused damage in the basement at the Bonded Warehouse and destroyed a wharf wall



Narrowboats on the swollen waters

A CANAL enthusiasts group is recovering after early summer floods caused £100,000 of damage to the canals and its listed buildings.

The Stourbridge Navigation Trust was hit by floods in June, causing extensive damage to the Grade II listed Bonded Warehouse.

A section of the wharf wall was also destroyed when the River Stour burst its banks on June 16. After months of work, external repairs have been completed, including rebuilding the wall and removing debris from the river.

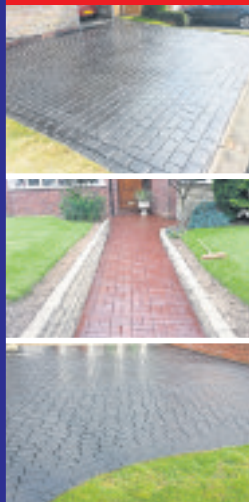
The charitable Trust says its annual Canal Street Open Weekend in October, which attracts up to 10,000 people, will definitely go ahead.

Organiser Heide Barratt said: "Flooding caused damage to the basement of the Bonded Warehouse, while our kitchen units and sink, fridge freezer, washing machine and dryer were all ruined."

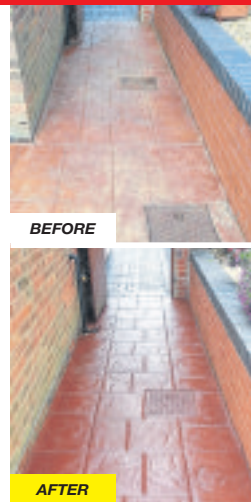
"Part of the Wharf wall was destroyed from the force of the water from the River Stour and some of the paving stones were damaged."

Despite all this, the Trust was back in business four days later.

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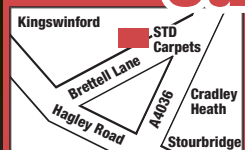
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'Thrilling' new director aims to strike a chord



Expressive – the CBSO's new musical director, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, has won plaudits for her energy and talent as she follows in the footsteps of Sir Simon Rattle and Andris Nelsons.

The new music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, 29-year-old Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, will pick up the baton at her 'welcome' concert in charge of the CBSO tomorrow evening (Friday).

The Lithuanian has won plaudits for her energy and talent and from September 2016 she will become officially the CBSO's 12th chief conductor for a period of at least three years.

She made her debut with the orchestra in July 2015 and so impressed musicians, management and audiences alike that she was asked to return in January to conduct a special concert.

Gražinytė-Tyla was formerly assistant conductor at the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She is also music director of the Salzburg Landestheater, in which she won the Salzburg festival young conductors award.

Chief executive Stephen Maddock said: "There was an instant chemistry between Mirga and our musicians, and the excitement in Symphony Hall at her concerts was palpable. Mirga is thrilling audiences wherever she goes."

Moritz Pfister, the orchestra's principal second violin, agreed. "She's a very popular choice. She's very musical, and also extremely expressive. She has a clear idea of what she wants, but at the same time she's very receptive to what the orchestra has to offer."

Gražinytė-Tyla said: "I felt so at ease working with the CBSO, and I can't wait to get started. Every musician in the orchestra is an artist with great individuality and sense of responsibility."

For tickets see www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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It's oarsome! Boat for disabled to use

A ROWING boat that can be used by people with disabilities will be launched in Dudley next month.

Access in Dudley (AID) has secured a £10,000 grant from Sport England to buy a stable quad rowing boat, suitable for four or five people.

The first boat of its kind in the area, it will be used primarily to give people with disabilities the opportunity to learn how to row. Dudley Rowing Club is working in partnership with Access in Dudley to provide the sessions.

The bid to Sport England has been supported by Netherton Water Sports Centre, Dudley Council and British Rowing. The boat, named AID1 in honour of the organisation that secured its funding, will be launched on Thursday, September 1, at Netherton Reservoir.

Tina Boothroyd, chairman of Access in Dudley and Dudley Rowing Club, said: "Following Team GB's success on the water at the Rio Olympics, we're absolutely delighted to have secured this funding to give local people who may have thought learning to row was not an option for them."



The impressive main gates at Mary Stevens Park, where £3m has been spent to restore the park to its prime

Views sought from public after £3m revamp of park

COUNCIL bosses want to know what people think of changes to a Stourbridge park following a £3 million revamp.

Visitors to Mary Stevens Park are being invited to take part in a survey after the completion of the programme of improvements.

Dudley Council is running the survey to gain feedback on the park's recent Heritage Lottery Fund investment.

Improvements include repairs to the park gates, war memorial, bandstand and Heath Pool as well as the creation of a new cafe and toilet facilities.

People can take part in the survey online at www.dudley.gov.uk and searching 'Mary Stevens Park survey' or by collecting a questionnaire from the park's activity centre. The closing date is Friday, September 2.

Dudley Council's environment boss Hillary Bills said: "This is a great opportunity for people who visit Mary Stevens Park to tell us about how they visit and utilise the park and we're keen to gain insight into how the recent improvements may have enhanced their time."

A £2.6 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund allowed the revamp to go ahead.

The entrance gates, which had long been in need of repair were refurbished. The grade II-listed bandstand saw parts of its original ironwork replaced and the Stourbridge coat of arms installed. A new power supply to the bandstand was also laid to make future concerts easier to stage.

A ranger has been appointed by the council to deliver a programme of activities at the revamped park.

New speed cameras for junction on busy route

SPEED cameras in Dudley are set to be installed at a notorious junction on the Birmingham New Road under plans by highways bosses to crack down on dangerous driving.

Dudley Council said it was investigating putting two fixed cameras on the bend near Woodcroft Avenue, Tipton.

U-turns could also be banned at the junction with Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley, and cameras installed to police it.

Councillors and residents have long called for safety measures at the Woodcroft Avenue junction. A campaign called for new traffic lights near the entrance to the street over concerns for the safety of motorists leaving the Foxyards estate. Some 600 people signed a petition in support of that suggestion.

The measures have been included in the council's Local Safety Scheme Proposed Programme for 2016/17.

Safety experts estimate the measures would decrease the likelihood of accidents on that stretch of the busy Birmingham New Road by half.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has been vocal about the need for action on that stretch of road. He said: "I'm delighted that the council has listened to residents and will be installing cameras to tackle speeding.

"Speeding is a real problem along the Birmingham New Road and I have been working with local council-

By Richard Guttridge

lors to press the council to sort it out."

Dudley councillor Ken Finch said: "Whether this will completely solve the problem I don't know. Birmingham New Road is a very dangerous road and a fast road. Residents fear there might be a fatality in the future and we are trying to prevent that.

"I've been involved for three years and have done quite a number of site visits. At least somebody is listening to us, which is a good thing."

A series of other measures aimed at improving safety on roads in the Dudley borough have also been revealed.

Mini roundabouts could be added to Gospel End Street in Sedgley and the junction of Hagley Road and Albert Road, in Hayley Green, to aid traffic flow.

The speed limit along Wynall Lane, Lutley Lane and Foxcote Lane near Halesowen will be reduced to 40mph as the current national speed limit is deemed to be too fast for such residential areas.

Landlord who failed to act is fined again

A LANDLORD has been found guilty for a second time of allowing a house to remain in serious disrepair. In total the two prosecutions have cost Adnan Rashid more than £7,000.

Rashid, 29, failed to attend court and was found guilty in his absence of failing to comply with an improvement notice served by Sandwell Council.

The house on Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, had problems including damp and mould, broken windows, defective doors and a damaged roof allowing water to leak inside.

Rashid, of Station Road, Brierley Hill, was initially prosecuted after complaints about the condition of the house in 2015. A second case was brought against the landlord when he failed to carry out repairs at the property.

Rashid was fined £3,000, costs of £551.16, a victim's surcharge of £120 and £776.36 costs at the hearing last week. He was handed a previous fine of £3,046 last November.

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Gregory Rd. 7pm
Tel: Kerry 07508 838158

Wordsley
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Lawnswood Road 5pm & 7pm
Tel Jan: 07970 147592

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Maidensbridge Rd.
Wall Heath, 7pm
Tel: Jen 07983 568652

New Consultant from 6th Sept
Bromley/Kingswinford
Dingle Community Centre, Madeley
Rd 5pm & 7pm
Tel: Vicky 07906 875612

Gornal Wood
Hinley Road Methodist Church
Hinley Road (Large Car Park at rear via chapel walk) 9.30am
Tel Becki: 07986 407934

Norton
Gig Mill Primary School
The Broadway, 7pm
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Wordsley
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Lawnswood Road 10am
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Woodsetton
Bramford Primary School
Park Road 6.00pm and 7.45pm
Tel Louise: 07967 624573

Gornal
Zoar Methodist Church
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Kingsway 7pm
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Pedmore
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Tel Caroline: 01562 888315

Amblecote
Peters Hill Primary School
Peters Hill Road 6pm and 7.30pm
Tel Lynne: 01384 455427

WEDNESDAY

New Group from 31st August
The Willaston Room
Stourbridge Town Hall, Crown
Centre 9.30am
Tel: Marie 01384 893001

Kingswinford
British Legion
Summerhill Road 3.30pm
5pm and 6.30pm
Tel Ann: 07787 186259

Brockmoor
Brockmoor Community Centre
Pennsett Road 9.30am and 11.30am
Tel Jan: 01384 827999

Amblecote
Amblecote Primary School
School Drive 5.30pm and 7.15pm
Tel Caroline: 01562 888315

Kinver
Brindley Heath Primary School
Enville Rd. 7pm
Tel: John 07769 690053

Pedmore
Hob Green Primary School
Pedmore 5.30pm
Tel: Paula 07846 847068

Stourbridge / Oldswinford
St Marys Church Hall
Rectory Road 3.45pm 5.30pm
and 7.30pm
Tel Kerry: 01384 833812

Brierley Hill
Withymoore Primary School
Gayfield Avenue 7pm
Tel Lynne: 01384 455427

Lower Gornal
The Straits Primary School
Milton Crescent 7pm
Tel Marion: 07887 594344

Upper Gornal
Upper Gornal Methodist Church
Spills Meadow off Kent Street 9.30am
Tel Lynn: 07963 539384

Dudley / Upper Gornal
Bishop Milner RC School
Burton Road 7pm
Tel Sue: 01902 882323

Oldhill
Holy Trinity Church
Halesowen Rd. 9.15am
Tel Sarah 07815 071982

THURSDAY

New Consultant from 1st Sept
Lye
Lye Cricket Club
Stourbridge Rd. 7pm
Tel: Pauline 07999 408805

New Group
Portway Lifestyle Centre
Oldbury B69 1HE
Thursdays from 1st September
7.00pm
Tel: Claire 07539 950447

New Consultant 1st September
Cradley
Cradley Liberal Club
Upper High Street, Cradley Heath
5pm and 7pm
Tel: Romina 07432 558596

Dudley
Central Methodist Church
Cross Street 5pm and 7pm
Tel: Sarah 07837 950797

Sedgley / Upper Gornal
St Chads and all Saints Social Club
High Holborn, Dudley Road 5pm
and 7pm
Tel Sue: 01902 882323

Brierley Hill
Nine Locks Community Centre
Hill Street 9.15am
Tel Jill: 01384 830929

Dudley
Central Methodist Church
Cross Street 10am 12noon
Tel: Sarah 07837 950797

Hagley
Hagley Primary School
Park Road 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Terry 07807 028308

Hagley
West One, 159 Worcester Road
9.30am
Tel: Sarah 07815 071982

Cradley
Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
Mogul Lane, Cradley
5.15pm and 7.15pm
Tel: Amanda 07862 274058

Stourbridge
Greenfield Primary School
Hill Street 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Marie: 01384 893001

Hawbush/Brierley Hill
Oakfield Com. Centre
Brettell Lane
5pm and 7pm
Tel: John 07769 690053

Stourbridge
St Thomas Church Hall
Market St. 10am
Tel: John 07769 690053

FRIDAY

New Consultant from 9th Sept
Halesowen
Combrow Hall, 10 Hagley St
8am and 10am
Tel: Kate 07725 658710

Sedgley
Sedgley Community Centre,
Ladies Walk
(Access via the Priory) 9.30 am
Tel Gareth: 07517 675787

Stourbridge
The Bonded Warehouse
Canal Street 9.30am
Tel Jo: 07725 987340

Kingswinford
St Marys Church Hall
The Village 8.30am and 10.30am
Tel Sue: 07825 354224

SATURDAY

Lower Gornal
Roberts Primary School
Robert Street 8.30am and 10.30am
Tel Sarah: 07837 950797

Hawbush / Brierley Hill
Oakfield Community Centre
Brettell Lane 7.30am, 9.30am
and 11.15am
Tel Jo: 07725 987340

Cradley
Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
Mogul Lane, Cradley
9am and 10.30pm
Tel: Amanda 07862 274058

Cradley
Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
Mogul Lane, Cradley
8.45am and 10.45am
Tel: Amanda 07862 274058

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King's here
See Page 23



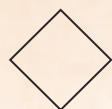
PUP-py power

Canadian rockers have landed
See Page 23



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Weston Park
TF11 8LE

Sunday 11th September 10am - 4pm
£2.50 for gardens and fair
www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk

T. Rextasy



Saturday, 9pm
Robin 2, Bilston
Get It On with Daniel and his spell-binding tribute to Marc Bolan and T Rex, you'll love to boogie to this even if you were not around for the glam rock era.
Visit www.therobin.co.uk

Dirty Jane



Saturday, 7.30pm
O2 Institute Blue Room, B'ham
One of Birmingham's noisiest rock bands, with Hednesford trio Dog, Telford's Cavalier Kings and Fleer.
Visit www.academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham/events/855157/dirty-jane-tickets

The Glenn Miller Story



Until Saturday, various times
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
Veteran song and dance man Tommy Steele gets to play one of his heroes in this musical about the big band leader.
Visit www.atickets.com/shows/the-glenn-miller-story/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham

Raghu Dixit



Wednesday, 7pm
O2 Academy 2, B'ham
The acclaimed Indian musician, composer and singer-songwriter brings his infectious global music into Brum.
Visit www.academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham/events/845875/raghu-dixit-tickets

CLUBBING

Propaganda
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

JAZZ, SOUL, RNB, BLUES AND REGGAE

Up 4 The Downstroke
Tonight and tomorrow,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Debbie Bond with Radiator Rick at CARAD & The Speedgums
Tonight,
Rhayader Museum and Gallery,
LD6 5ER.
Call 01597 810561

The Commandments
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577661

Tom Martin Celtic Soul
Tomorrow, £5 and Mon, £5
Tower Of Song, Birmingham,
B30 3EL.
Call 0121 486 1300

Elkie Brooks
Mon, £27.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate,
Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

ROCK & METAL

The Replicas
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577661

Skabucks
Tonight, £6
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Heronimus Fin
Tonight,
Tower Of Song, Birmingham,
B30 3EL. Call 0121 486 1300

Queensryche
Tonight, £20 - £22.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Ozzy OzzSpawn & Disarm Goliath
Tomorrow, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

T. Rextasy - 'Get It On'
Tonight, £13 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Undertones
Tomorrow,
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Oasis v The Stone Roses
Sun, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177
or 07986 577661

Tommy Hunt & The Edwin Starr Band featuring Angelo Starr & Johnny Boy Pryers & Lorraine Silver
Sun - £22 - £24
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Crowded Scouse - 'Woodface'
Thu, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

POP

Thank ABBA For The Music
Tonight, £19.50 - £22.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate,
Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Michael Buble tribute
Tomorrow,
Genting Club Star City,
Birmingham, B7 5SA.
Call 0121 3278008

The Simon & Garfunkel Story
Thu at 8pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Quill
Thu,
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

CLASSICAL

CBSO and Mirga at the BBC Proms
Tomorrow,
CBSO Centre, Birmingham,
B1 2LF.
Call 0121 616 6500

Stourport Choral Society
Wed,
Areyley Kings Village Hall, Areyley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB. Call 07939 318973

COMEDY

Will-E 'One Man' Special
Sun,
6 on Broad Street, Birmingham,
B1 2HF. Call 0121 632 4936

Sarah Millican: Outsider
Mon, £25
Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Jason Manford 'Best of'
Mon, £19.50
Oakengates Theatre,
Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Joe Pasquale
Wed,
Lichfield Garrick,
WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club at The Regent Theatre
Tomorrow, Free entry
Fenton Manor Sports Complex,
Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2RR.
Call 01782 233222

THEATRE

The Glenn Miller Story
Tonight and tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Malvern Theatres Young Company: Seussical The Musical
Tonight and tomorrow,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Inside the Story: 3D books
Tue, £2
Ludlow Assembly Rooms,
SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

The Dreamboys
Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Thu,
The Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses,
Edgbaston, B15 3TR.
Call 0121 454 1860

One Show More
Various, free entry
Fenton Manor Sports Complex,
Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2RR.
Call 01782 233222

MUSEUMS, GALLERIES & DAYS OUT

Art Explorer Friday
Today,
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,
B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Wild art activity day
Today,
Croome Court, Worcester,
WR8 9DW.
Call 01905 371006

The Big Read: Story-time Trail
Tomorrow,
Soho House, Birmingham,
B18 5LB.
Call 0121 554 9122

First World War at Croft
Tomorrow,
Croft Castle and Parkland,
Yarpole, HR6 9PW.
Call 01568 782120

Newcomen Engine in Steam
Tomorrow - Mon,
The Black Country Living Museum,
Dudley,
DY1 4SQ.
Call 01215579643

Drakelow Tunnels Ghost Hunt with Spooky Nights
Sun, £18
Drakelow Tunnels, Wolverley and Cookley.
Call 0203 239 8075

Sunday Guided Tours
Sun, £3
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Open Studio: Life Drawing & Painting
Sun,
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Hidden Stories Ramble
Sun,
Clent Hills, B62 0NL.
Call 01562 712 822

Boulton goes to Bollywood
Mon,
Soho House, Birmingham,
B18 5LB.
Call 0121 554 9122

Knights & Princesses - Bank Holiday Event
Mon - Thu,
Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster,
DY11 7XZ.
Call 01299 251890

Flea Fair
Mon,
Three Counties Showground,
Malvern, WR13 6NW.
Call 01684 584924

Whyley Dance
Tue
Areyley Kings Village Hall, Areyley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Sarasin & Partners National Fine Art Open
Tue,
Weston Park,
Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal,
TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Make a code breaker
Tue, £2
Blakesley Hall Museum, Yardley,
Birmingham, B25 8RN.
Call 0121 464 2193

Wild Storytelling - Ellesmere
Tue,
Shropshire Wildlife Trust,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH.
Call 01743 284280

Great Fire of London Week
Tue - Thu,
Blakesley Hall Museum,
Yardley,
Birmingham,
B25 8RN.
Call 0121 464 2193

Summer Holiday Tile Decorating Workshops
Today, £5
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424

Rainbows
Wed,
Areyley Kings Village Hall, Areyley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Storytelling in the Courtyard
Wed,
Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD.
Call 0121 675 4722

Family craft activity: Hand Print Beasts
Wed, £1
Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD.
Call 0121 675 4722

Historical Talk Series. David & Pam Humphries - BCT, The Coffin Works and Beyond
Wed,
Gunmakers Arms pub,
Birmingham, B4 6HG.

Storytelling picnic with Sal Tonge at Dolerw Park
Wed, £3
Oriol Davies Gallery, The Park,
Newtown, SY16 2NZ.
Call 01686 625041

Wild Storytelling - Ludlow
Wed,
Shropshire Wildlife Trust,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH.
Call 01743 284280

Chance to Dance
Thu,
Areyley Kings Village Hall, Areyley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Graham Colling - Granary Art Gallery
Thu,
Weston Park,
Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal,
TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Wild Storytelling - Shrewsbury
Thu,
Shropshire Wildlife Trust,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH.
Call 01743 284280

MISC. EVENTS

Wildcraft: The Outdoor Adventure for Video Gamers
Today,
Chirk Castle, LL14 5AF.
Call 01691 777701

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Power PUP as punks grow up

CANADIAN punky power-pop outfit PUP are promising a blistering show in Birmingham, following the release of their new album *The Dream Is Over*.

The album's title is a riposte to the doctor who told singer and guitarist Stefan Babcock those very words when a cyst was found on his vocal chords.

Some wear and tear was not surprising after the Toronto quartet had played 450 shows over two years in support of the band's self-titled debut album.

But *The Dream Is Over* is very much an affirmation that the dream is still alive. It's brattish blasts of angry nerd rock, fuelled by self-loathing, youthful angst and the desire to escape a small town existence, show that the 20-something rockers haven't lost their mojo... and their lead singer delivers a full-voiced 'up yours' to bleak medical advice.

Touring

Stand out tracks include the anthemic *Pine Point* and *Old Wounds*, while *Can't Win, My Life is Over* & *I Couldn't Be Happier*, and *If This Tour Doesn't Kill You, I Will* mixes loathing and self-deprecation.

Babcock says: "I think that a lot of people in their mid-20s start to feel this sense of disillusionment, realising that maybe life isn't going to turn out exactly as you'd pictured it."

"I love touring and playing music more than anything in the world. But there's also this realisation that maybe the romanticised vision of this



Canadian band PUP are growing up on the road, as heard on their new album

lifestyle I'd imagined ten years ago has little or no relation to the actual experience - waking up in a Walmart parking lot in a van full of dudes and thinking I'm 27, broke and lonely. That's where a lot of these songs come from.

"I think most people eventually

experience that resignation, that acceptance of real life with all its imperfections. It's called growing up."

PUP, who also feature guitarist Steve Sladkowski, bassist Nestor Chumak and drummer Zack Mykula, are in concert at The Rainbow, in Digbeth, Birmingham, on Tuesday.

Knight will play a king

SIR Antony Sher (pictured left) takes on what many regard the 'Mount Everest of roles' when he plays King Lear, which opened this week at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

But 24 'extras', including amateur actors from Birmingham, Solihull and Warwickshire, will also be taking part in the landmark production which runs at Stratford until October 15 and will be screened live in selected cinemas on October 12.

Directed by Royal Shakespeare Company Artistic Director Gregory Doran, the production will transfer to London in November.

Sir Antony's first Shakespeare role with the RSC was as The Fool in *King Lear* in the early 1980s, before he made his name with his celebrated portrayal of Richard III. He has gone on to play *Macbeth*, *Falstaff*, *Iago*, *Malvolio*, *Prospero* and *Shylock* for the RSC. His screen roles have included *Disraeli* in *Mrs Brown*, *Dr Moth* in *Shakespeare in Love* and *Glickman* in TV thriller *The Shadow Line*.

One of Shakespeare's most celebrate plays, *King Lear* has an aging monarch aiming to live out his days without the burden of power. He shares his kingdom between his children but regrets his decision and has to confront his mistakes.

Written around 1605/06, *King Lear* is considered as one of Shakespeare's great tragedies.

RSC productions of *King Lear* have included many famous actors in the title role, including acting knights John Gielgud, Michael Redgrave, Robert Stephens, Donald Sinden, Nigel Hawthorne, Michael Gambon and Ian McKellen.

Festival style gig at Brum pub venue

SEE six bands for a tenner (if you buy in advance) at Birmingham pub venue the Hare and Hounds on Sunday.

The gig from 4pm to 2am at the Kings Heath High Street venue will be headlined by California art rock twin duo The Garden and Madrid trio The Parrots. Plus, from Brum, come punk duo Table Scraps, rock band Sunshine Frisbee Laserbeam, garage rockers The Castilians, and The Mothers Earth Experiment's psychedelic jazz.

In the H&H's other room that night is reggae band Kioko with a DJ set from Jerry Dammers.

See www.hareandhoundskingheath.co.uk for details.

Camper Calling to pop under canvas

THE festival season continues this weekend with Camper Calling, the three-day family festival that blends music and camping at Ragley Hall in Warwickshire.

1980s favourites ABC, who this year released the long-awaited sequel to their 1982 classic album *The Lexicon of Love*, will top the bill in the grounds of the mansion near Alcester. Also on the bill are The Magic Numbers, The Hoosiers, Toploader, Dodgy, plus tribute acts and circus shows.

Tickets range from £10 for a day pass to £62.50 for the weekend. Visit www.campercalling.com or call 01244 881895.

Casino memories as fans keep faith

THE major Northern Soul event at Bilston this Sunday is going ahead despite the absence of soul legend Dean Parrish.

The New Yorker, famous for Wigan Casino classic *I'm On My Way*, has had to pull out of the soul nostalgia line-up at the Robin 2 because he had to undergo an emergency operation.

However, there is still lots for fans to enjoy with Tommy Hunt, Lorraine Silver and Johnny Boy Pryors joining The Edwin Starr Band led by the late Motown singer's brother Angelo. Plus former Casino DJs including Russ Winstanley. Tickets cost £22 advance (£24 door) with dancing from 5pm to midnight.



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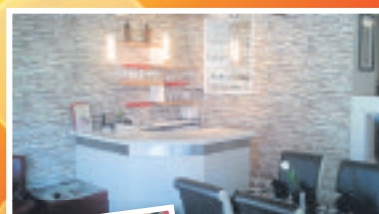
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CHOICE



Simon Cowell

The X Factor (ITV, 8pm)

New series. The long-running talent contest returns, bringing with it a reunion for the judging panel, as veterans Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh all reclaim their seats, joining show creator Simon Cowell to assess the latest crop of would-be stars. Also coming back to the X Factor family this year is presenter Dermot O'Leary, who takes over hosting duties from Caroline Flack and Olly Murs. As ever, the contest gets under way with the auditions stage, in which Cowell and co will be expected to successfully identify the stars of tomorrow from the thousands of hopeful competitors taking to the stage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **1.10** Lost Land of the Tiger. (R) **1.25** League Highlights. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final. Hull FC v Warrington Wolves (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30** Now You See It.

6.00 **The Getaway Car.** Two brothers from Liverpool, a professional driver and his wife, a father-daughter duo, and two friends from London are among the contestants getting behind the wheel this week.

6.50 **BBC News.**

7.00 **Regional Programme.**

7.10 **Pointless Celebrities.** Hugh Dennis and Pauline McLynn, Charlie Higson and Adli Ray, Richard Gibson and Vicki Michelle, and Jean Fergusson and Tina Malone compete in the unorthodox quiz show.

8.00 **Casualty.** New series. The long-running medical drama returns with a special, feature-length edition marking the show's 30th anniversary. Beginning right where the previous series left off, Connie and Grace's lives hang in the balance after they were driven off the road and into a ravine by Steeph, whose own daughter was taken away by social services following Connie's wedding. Back at the ED, the team plans a surprise party to celebrate Charlie's 30 years at Holby. When news of Connie's accident arrives, the festivities are immediately put on hold, and even old faces who have arrived to mark Charlie's big day offer to lend their expertise.

9.50 **The National Lottery Live.** Gabby Roslin presents as the winning Lotto and Thunderball numbers are revealed. Plus, adaptive rower Nick Beighton prepares for the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.

10.00 **BBC News.**

10.20 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool and Hull City v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

11.50 **Film: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.** (1994)

1.45 **Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 **Glorious Gardens** from Above. (R) **6.50** **Film: Mr Lucky.** (1943) **8.25** **Film: The Importance of Being Earnest.** (1952) **10.00** **Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **11.00** **Lost Land of the Tiger.** (R) **12.00** **Hairy Bikers' Best of British.** (R) **12.45** **Bing Crosby: Talking Pictures.** **1.25** **Film: That's Entertainment!** (1974) Compilation of highlights from MGM musicals, starring Frank Sinatra. **3.30** **Full Steam Ahead.** (R) **4.30** **Final Score.** **5.30** **Flog It!** (R)

6.20 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don explains how to look after and prune soft fruit, while Frances Tophill visits RHS Rosemoor to catch up on the vegetable trials that she started earlier in the year. (R)

6.50 **Proms Extra 2016.** Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Monro and conductor Jules Buckley join Katie Derham to discuss the Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra.

7.30 **Greece with Simon Reeve.** Part one of two. The presenter takes a tour of Greece, travelling from the islands of the Aegean to Athens and learning how the Greek people are coping with their country's crises. (R)

8.30 **Dad's Army.** The platoon is selected to appear in an army training film, but Captain Mainwaring refuses to take part when he finds out his men are to play Nazi soldiers. (R)

9.00 **Edinburgh Nights.** Kirsty Wark meets comedians who admitted to hastily re-writing their Edinburgh Festival shows to reference to the result of the EU Referendum. Last in the series.

9.30 **The Truth Commissioner.** In the wake of the formation of Northern Ireland's power-sharing executive, British diplomat Henry Stanfield is appointed to head a South African-style Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, with the aim of settling any lingering resentments over the thousands of deaths that occurred on both sides during the Troubles. His primary concern becomes an investigation into the disappearance of a teenager 20 years previously. However, Stanfield soon finds there are people in power willing to go to any lengths to suppress the truth.

11.00 **Film: Kings of Curry.** (2013)

12.20 **Film: Everlasting Moments.** (2008) **2.05** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.** **6.25** **Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35** **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.45** **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.55** **Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.00** **Sooty.** (R) **7.15** **Super 4.** (R) **7.35** **Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **8.00** **Ninjabo: Rise of the Snakes.** (R) **8.25** **ITV News.** **8.30** **Weekend.** **9.30** **I Am Team GB.** **10.30** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.25** **Film: Columbus: Last Salute to the Commodore.** (1976) **1.30** **ITV News: Weather.** **1.35** **River Monsters.** (R) **2.05** **Doc Martin.** (R) **4.05** **Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor.** (2008) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Brendan Fraser.

6.05 **Regional Programme; Weather.**

6.15 **ITV News; Weather.**

6.30 **You've Been Framed! Gold.** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents.

7.00 **Go for It.** New series. Members of the public are given a chance to demonstrate their most unusual skills in unique challenges, with successful contestants claiming a £1,000 prize.

8.00 **The X Factor.** New series. Dermot O'Leary comes back to the X Factor fold, while Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh rejoin Simon Cowell on the panel as the talent show returns.

9.30 **Film: The Bourne Ultimatum.** (2007) Amnesiac rogue assassin Jason Bourne's long-buried memories are reawakened by a British journalist researching the secret organisation that was responsible for transforming him into a killing machine. Meanwhile, a ruthless CIA director becomes convinced Bourne is still a security risk, and plans to dispose of him once and for all. Third instalment of the spy thriller series, directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Matt Damon, Joan Allen, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Paddy Considine and Albert Finney.

10.35 **ITV News; Weather.**

10.50 **Film: The Bourne Ultimatum.** (2007) Concludes.

11.55 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** The host takes his successful talk show stateside.

12.45 **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **3.50** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

8.55 **The Morning Line.** **9.55** **Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live.** **11.25** **Salvage SOS.** (R) **11.55** **Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying Live.** **2.30** **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Goodwood, Newmarket and Beverley. **4.45** **A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** **5.40** **Ugly House to Lovely House** with George Clarke. (R)

6.40 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Hidden Britain by Drone.**

Tony Robinson presents the first of two programmes using drones to shoot aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public. Among the locations featured is a village on Salisbury Plain that is not listed on any maps, and is used by the military for training. The drones record an exercise involving tanks storming the area. (R)

8.00 **The Good Terrorist.** Documentary revisiting the controversial crusade of John Harris, the anti-apartheid campaigner whose exemplary reputation in pursuit of equality in South Africa was ruined when, in 1964, he placed a bomb in a Johannesburg station. His actions resulted in the death of a 77-year-old woman, and the severe burning of her young granddaughter. While Harris' actions up to this point had included helping to ensure South Africa would be barred from the Olympics, the 1964 bombing horrified the country. Harris was hanged eight months later, becoming the only white political prisoner to be executed in four decades of apartheid. More than 50 years later, this film makes use of Harris's own home videos to tell his story, from the perspective of those who knew him, and documents a momentous encounter in the UK between Harris's son and the now grown youngster who was maimed by his bomb.

9.00 **Film: Last Vegas.** (2013) Premiere. Comedy, starring Michael Douglas.

11.05 **Film: Hot Tub Time Machine.** (2010) Sci-fi comedy, starring John Cusack and Clark Duke.

1.00 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R) **1.50** **Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.55** **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R) **4.50** **Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites.** (R) **5.00** **Countdown.** (R) **5.50** **Draw It!** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** **8.25** **The Fairly OddParents.** **9.00** **The Saturday Show Live.** **11.00** **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **12.00** **Murdered: Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **1.00** **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **2.00** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **3.00** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **4.00** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **5.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R)

6.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.**

Paul and Phil expect a routine eviction, but get more than they bargained for, while Stewart and Victor hunt down £66,000 owed by a businessman. (R)

6.55 **5 News Weekend.**

7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Pakistan. Action from the second one-day international of the five-match series, which took place at Lord's. Presented by Mark Nicholas, with commentary and analysis by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

8.00 **World's Fastest Train.** Exploring four historic engineering breakthroughs that paved the way for France's TGV, which regularly reaches speeds of 200mph on some services and has been pushed to nearly 360mph in special tests. The programme looks at four key steps in the development of high-speed technology, including George Stephenson's 19th-century Rocket and the Japanese Bullet Train. (R)

9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Birmingham City v Norwich City, and Newcastle United v Brighton & Hove Albion.

10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in the Leagues One and Two.

10.30 **The Funny Thing About Dating.** Host Johnny Vegas offers an uproariously silly, insightful and frank look at the difficult business of finding love in the 21st century.

11.30 **Impractical Jokers UK.** Friends David, Matt, Lee and Paul have to convince a stranger to go to the toilet with them, and work on the front desk of a central London youth hostel.

12.00 **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 **David Attenborough's Zoo Quest in Colour.** **8.30** **The Return of Flying Scotsman.** **9.00** **Beck: In the Name of God.** **10.30** **Forever Young - How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up.** **11.30** **Red Hot Chili Peppers at Reading Festival 2016.** **1.00** **Sitar Heroes at the BBC.** **2.00** **Top of the Pops: 1982.** **2.40** **Forever Young - How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up.** **3.40** **Close**

ITV2

12.55 **Catchphrase.** **1.45** **Re-Educating Joey Essex.** **GCSE Special.** **2.45** **Film: What a Girl Wants.** (2003) **3.45** **FYI Daily.** **3.50** **Film: What a Girl Wants.** (2003) **4.50** **The X Factor: Top Ten Success Stories.** **5.50** **Film: Evan Almighty.** (2007) **7.50** **Film: Corpse Bride.** (2005) **8.50** **FYI Daily.** **8.55** **Film: Corpse Bride.** (2005) **9.30** **The Xtra Factor Live.** **10.30** **Family Guy.** **11.55** **American Dad!** **12.55** **The Cleveland Show.** **1.55** **Mom.** **2.40** **Teleshopping.** **5.40** **ITV2 Nightscreen.**

ITV3

12.50 **Film: That's Carry On.** (1978) **1.50** **FYI Daily.** **1.55** **Film: That's Carry On.** (1978) **2.40** **Film: The Young Victoria.** (2009) **3.40** **FYI Daily.** **3.45** **Film: The Young Victoria.** (2009) **4.50** **Foye's War.** **7.00** **Doc Martin.** **8.00** **Leavis.** **10.00** **Agatha Christie's Marple.** **12.00** **Inspector Morse.** **2.15** **ITV3 Nightscreen.** **2.30** **Teleshopping.**

ITV4

11.10 **Cycling: Vuelta a Espana.** **12.15** **Film: Destiny.** (1954) **1.15** **FYI Daily.** **1.20** **Film: Destiny.** (1954) **2.10** **Film: The Rawhide Years.** (1956) **3.15** **FYI Daily.** **3.20** **Film: The Rawhide Years.** (1956) **4.00** **Film: Superman.** (1978) **5.15** **FYI Daily.** **5.20** **Film: Superman.** (1978) **7.00** **Cycling: Vuelta a Espana.** **8.00** **World Series of Darts: Perth.** **11.30** **Film: Transporter 3.** (2008) **12.30** **FYI Daily.** **12.35** **Film: Transporter 3.** (2008) **1.35** **Highway Patrol.** **2.00** **Cycling: Vuelta a Espana.** **2.50** **ITV4 Nightscreen.** **3.00** **Teleshopping.**

E4

12.30 **The Goldbergs.** **2.30** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **4.30** **Film: Turner & Hooch.** (1989) **6.30** **The Big Bang Theory.** **9.00** **Film: Mirror Mirror.** (2012) **11.05** **Gogglebox.** **1.00** **Rude Tube.** **2.00** **2 Broke Girls.** **2.50** **Angle Tribeca.** **3.15** **Gogglebox.** **Film4** **1.00** **Mr Popper's Penguins.** (2011) **2.50** **Thunderbirds.** (2004) **4.40** **17 Again.** (2009) **6.45** **The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement.** (2004) **9.00** **The Heart.** (2013) **11.20** **Predator 2.** (1990) **1.30** **Byzantium.** (2012) **3.55** **Close**

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CHOICE



Victoria (ITV, 9pm)
New series. In 1838, at the age of 18, young princess Alexandrina's life is transformed when she ascends the throne of Great Britain and becomes Queen Victoria. As monarch in her own right, the young Victoria suddenly finds herself freed of the repressive shackles placed on her by her mother's advisor, Conroy, and builds a new alliance with the charismatic prime minister Lord Melbourne. However, her inexperience makes her susceptible to mistakes – and ultimately scandal. Period drama, starring Jenna Coleman.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Continent. (R) **2.15** Summer: Earth's Seasonal Secrets. (R) **3.15** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Joe Crowley meets a tenant farmer to see what sort of problem he faces working on the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge, while Anita Rani visits reconstructions of neolithic houses. Including weather for the week ahead. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. New series. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire, where a collection of rare figures and dolls turns out to be a find of national importance. **9.00** Are You Being Served? Young Mr Grace seeks to modernise the department store. Remake of the celebrated sitcom, starring Sherrie Hewson, Jason Watkins, John Challis and Matthew Horne. Part of the Landmark Comedy Sitcom season. **9.30** Porridge. Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais' updated version of their prison comedy, starring Kevin Bishop as the grandson of wily old lag Fletcher. With Ralph Ineson and Mark Bonnar. Part of the Landmark Comedy Sitcom season. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium and West Bromwich Albion v Middlesbrough at the Hawthorns. **11.25** Comedy Connections. The story behind department store-based sitcom Are You Being Served? The programme reveals how Joanna Lumley and a Piccadilly shop inspired the much-loved series. (R) **11.55** Comedy Connections. The story behind prison-based sitcom Porridge. (R) **12.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **11.15** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **11.45** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **2.00** Film: None But the Brave. (1965) Second World War adventure, starring Frank Sinatra. **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Kate Humble: My Sheepdog and Me. (R) **5.30** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) **6.00** Highlands: Scotland's Wild Heart. Following the efforts being made by scientists, conservationists and local people in the Highlands as they work to repair the damage of the past and rebuild wild landscapes and habitats. The programme meets Dave Anderson from Forestry Commission Scotland and his colleague Simon Smith as they tag and monitor red kite and osprey chicks, gaining a unique perspective of the lives of the birds before they fly the nest. Cameras also capture the efforts of the Scottish Wildcat Action Plan team, as well as Paul Lister's project to reintroduce wolves and bears to his Alladale Wilderness Reserve. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? In the second of two programmes, poodles and pussies are tested in training skills, independence and their capacity for love. Presented by Chris Packham and Liz Bonnin. (R) **8.00** Robot Wars. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the final, featuring the five heat winners and one of the runners-up. Last in the series. **9.00** Dragons' Den. A merchant navy officer-turned-product designer demonstrates his tablet holder, and two proud parents pitch their organic skincare product for babies. Presented by Evan Davis. **10.00** Fleabag. Dumped by her emotionally fragile boyfriend, Fleabag attempts to rekindle romantic fires to distract her from the mayhem of her life. **10.30** Murder in Successville. **11.00** Film: Up There. (2012) **12.15** Film: Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky. (2009) **2.05** Sign Zone: Holy City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** Film: Columbo: Troubled Waters. (1975) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.20** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.25** The Chase. (R) **3.25** The X Factor. (R) **4.55** Film: Despicable Me. (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell. **6.35** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Ellie Simmonds: Swimming with Dolphins. The gold-medal winning Paralympic swimmer takes a break from training region to conquer her fear of the open ocean and fulfil her childhood dream of swimming with wild dolphins. **8.00** The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents as the opening weekend auditions continue. **9.00** Victoria. New series. Period drama, charting the 18-year-old Queen Victoria's struggle to mature into a formidable ruler capable of building an empire. **10.35** ITV News: Weather. **10.50** Slow Train Through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones. The comedian makes five train journeys taking in the spectacular sights of Africa, travelling to unexpected places in deserts and forests, villages and cities, and finding out how the railways are used today. On the fourth leg of his journey across the continent, Griff travels across Namibia in the south-west, experiencing luxury camping, encountering cheetahs, and visiting 1,000-foot sand dunes. (R) **11.45** Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Dropping tokens down a choice of four chutes, they hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf - and the more they collect, the greater the prize fund. The player who has won the most amount is then eliminated, and the last one standing competes for a £10,000 jackpot. (R) **12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

7.30 Frasier. (R) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 13th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **4.00** Guy Martin's Passion for Life. (R) **4.30** Location, Location. Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Posh Pawn. James Constantinou sets sail on the high seas in a historic boat, the owner of which is seeking £750,000 to fulfil his dream of becoming a well-known children's author. Meanwhile, Lawrence is tasked with selling an original Kerry Darlington painting for a memorable returning client, and Essex girl Lucy needs an urgent loan to pay for her mother's funeral, and seeks to secure the money she requires using a diamond ring that has been in her family for generations. **8.00** Prehistoric Mega Beasts: Croc v Snake. Documentary investigating the unexpected discoveries made during a mining operation in Cerrejón, northern Colombia, where excavations have uncovered evidence of a prehistoric world filled with giant creatures. The largest of these was the titanoboa, a 43-foot snake that appeared to be unmatched in either size or strength. However, further findings in the region indicate that the titanoboa's supremacy may have been challenged by a giant crocodilian creature, and scientists conduct a close examination of fossilised remains to determine which of the two ruled this ancient animal kingdom. **9.00** The Big Fat Quiz of Everything. Noel Fielding, Eddie Izzard, Alan Carr, Chelsea Peretti, Romesh Ranganathan and Dara O Briain are quizzed by Jimmy Carr on the past 100,000 years of history, with topics ranging from politics to pop music, fashion to film and art to animals. Jimmy is ably assisted by regulars Jon Snow, the children of Mitchell Brook Primary School and Joey Essex, as well as a whole host of famous question setters. Last in the series. **10.35** Film: The Watch. (2012) **12.40** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Highlights. **1.40** Friday Night Dinner. (R) **2.05** Walking the Himalayas. (R) **3.00** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.05** Access. (R) **12.10** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.10** Film: Are We There Yet? (2005) Family comedy, starring Ice Cube. **3.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **4.00** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **5.00** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **6.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Dave Spidey and Zoe Lyons introduce videos from the internet featuring animals doing bizarre and humorous things, with the first edition focusing on cats. (R) **7.00** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Compilation of internet videos featuring children doing bizarre and humorous things. **8.00** Can't Pay? Benefits Special. The agents grapple with emotional evictions and moral dilemmas, focusing on people who have fallen into debt and those tasked with recovering the money. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** The Most Shocking Moments of the 00s. Key moments and clips from the decade, featuring Justin Bieber's antics, Lady Gaga's meat dress and Britney Spears' meltdown. Reality TV programmes come to the fore, including George Galloway's turn as a cat in Celebrity Big Brother which shocked the nation, to Katie Price and Peter Andre's love affair on I'm a Celebrity! Featuring contributions from Louis Walsh, Liz McAlarnon, Shaun Ryder and Bez, Matt Richardson, Jimmy Bullard, Nish Kumar, Sinitta, Kerry Katona and Kate Lawler. **11.55** Tattoo Disasters UK. The stories of more people who regret tattoos and are taking steps to get them removed, including a make-up artist who has one dedicated to friends he no longer sees. (R) **12.50** Lip Sync Battle: Walking Dead Special. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Suspects: The Enemy Within. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2016: Barenboim Conducts The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra **9.30** Sounds of the Eighties **10.00** Eisteddfod 2016 with Will Gompertz **10.30** Billy Glyro at Reading Festival 2016 **12.00** Guiltar Heroes at the BBC **1.00** Horizon: Playing God **2.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **3.00** Sounds of the Eighties **3.25** Close **ITV2**
12.00 The X Factor **1.30** The Xtra Factor Live **2.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.00** Film: Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** Film: Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.55** Film: Bean (1997) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: Bean (1997) **6.45** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** Bordertown **12.50** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV3**
11.00 Goodnight Mister Tom **1.10** Lewis **5.10** Film: Anne of Green Gables (2015) **7.00** Midsummer Murders **9.00** The Investigator: A British Crime Story **1.05** Wire in the Blood **3.45** May the Best House Win **5.30** Rising Damp **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
5.45 Silverstone Classic **6.45** British Touring Cars - Crashes and Smashes **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Mr Bean **9.00** Film: Resident Evil (2002) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Resident Evil (2002) **11.10** Film: Don't Say a Word (2001) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: Don't Say a Word (2001) **1.25** Highway Patrol **1.55** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
12.00 Coach Trip: Road to Ibiza **2.35** The Goldbergs **4.30** Film: ParaNorman (2012) **6.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.30** Gogglebox **1.05** Containment **2.05** New Girl **2.30** First Dates **3.25** Hollyoaks **Film4**
11.00 Honey, I Shrank the Kids (1989) **1.00** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **2.45** Rio (2011) **4.35** Tooth Fairy (2010) **6.45** GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **9.00** X-Men: First Class (2011) **11.35** Insidious (2010) **1.40** Insidious: Chapter 2 (2013) **3.55** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Thor: The Dark World, BBC1, 8.30pm

The alien thunder god returns to Earth when a powerful weapon from the dawn of time is discovered. The device attracts the attention of an old enemy of his people, who intends to use it to plunge the universe into darkness – and to stop him, Thor must form an uneasy alliance with his treacherous brother Loki. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston and Natalie Portman. (2013)

Schindler's List, Channel 5, 10pm

During the Second World War, German businessman Oskar Schindler strives to save Jews destined for the concentration camps by employing them in his factory – an act of mercy made possible by a deal struck with a sadistic German commandant. Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning drama, starring Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley and Ralph Fiennes. (1993)



Thor: The Dark World, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

WEDNESDAY

DOA, BBC1, 11.45pm

A burned-out college professor is accused of murdering his wife's lover, and tries to cope by going on an all-night drinking binge – but wakes to discover someone has slipped him a fatal poison, leaving him with just 24 hours to find his would-be killer. Remake of the 1950 thriller, with Dennis Quaid. (1988)

THURSDAY

Shine, BBC1, 11.30pm

Biopic of Australian prodigy David Helfgott, the talented but fragile pianist who suffered a nervous breakdown and battled years of mental illness, along with the pressures of an overbearing father obsessed with success. Overcoming the psychological damage, he succeeded in putting his life back together and eventually settled in a loving relationship. Starring Geoffrey Rush and Armin Mueller-Stahl. (1996)

FRIDAY

Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, ITV, 10.40pm

The hapless journalist's new romance looks set to be short-lived when she ends up serving time in a Thai prison. Comedy sequel, starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth and Hugh Grant. (2004)

Will Home be where the heart is for Neil?

It's 60 years since Hancock's Half Hour made the leap from the radio to the small screen, and in the process became British TV's first great home-grown sitcom.

And that's all the excuse the BBC needed to launch a new season celebrating the genre, and looking back at some of the other much-loved comedies that have amused us over the years.

This week alone there are new versions of Are You Being Served, Porridge and Goodnight Sweetheart (as well as a prequel to Keeping Up Appearances entitled Young Hyacinth), while we'll also soon be seeing new casts recreate the scripts for 'lost' episodes of Step by Step and Son, Till Death Us Do Part and the aforementioned Hancock's Half Hour.

But it's that left you wondering where the much-loved classic sitcoms of tomorrow are going to come from, never fear – BBC Two is out to prove that the genre is still in rude health with a string of pilots, including tonight's Home from Home.

On paper, all the new one-offs look

promising – Peep Show's Paterson Joseph and Robert Webb are starring in The Coopers vs The Rest and Our Ex Wife respectively, while award-winning stand-up comedian James Acaster is behind We the Jury.

Motherland practically groans with class, as its writers include Graham Linehan (Father Ted and The IT Crowd) and Sharon Horgan (Catastrophe, Pulling).

However, as seasoned sitcom watchers know, no matter how good the pedigrees of everyone involved, sometimes a comedy also needs that little bit of extra unpredictable magic to succeed.

So, let's all keep our fingers crossed for Home From Home, which stars a couple of actors who know a thing or two about crowd-pleasing sitcoms – Johnny Vegas, who has logged in plenty of hours by the pool in ITV's Benidorm, and Joanna Page, aka the female half of Gavin & Stacey.

They star as married couple Neil and Fiona Hackett, who, after years of scrimping and saving, have finally made their long-cherished dream of

owning a lodge in the Lake District a reality.

At first it seems that their 'traditional' lodge at Lake View Holiday Park has been worth all the hard work and sacrifices – but that's before they meet their new neighbours, Robert (Adam James) and Penny Dillon (Emilia Fox).

Robert is outdoorsy, while Penny is glamorous and louche, and Neil can't help feeling that the Dillons are superior to the Hacketts in every way.

Fiona is willing to put any feelings of inferiority to one side and join their new neighbours for a 'getting to know you' barbecue, but her husband is less convinced.

However, when the sangria starts flowing, it seems that everyone loosens up – which may not be a good idea as Neil commits the ultimate faux pas...

It remains to be seen whether Home From Home will be so successful that someone will be recreating it in 2078, but here's hoping it gets to become a series.



Home from Home, Tuesday, BBC2, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Great British Menu

BBC2, 7.30pm

New series. The culinary competition returns with chefs battling it out for the opportunity to cook at a banquet held at the Palace of Westminster celebrating ordinary Britons honoured by the Queen, with the contenders being challenged to showcase contemporary cuisine and demonstrate the transformation in British food during Elizabeth II's reign. The contest begins with entrants all representing Scotland for the first time, with Adam Handling, Michael Bremner and Ally McGrath preparing their starters.

Celebrity Home Secrets

ITV, 8pm

New series. Famous faces revisit their former homes to share their memories and secrets from when they lived there, beginning with actor Nigel Havers. He goes to the London flat where he lived when he got his first professional job aged 15, and where Mick Jagger and Keith Richards attended a celebratory party in 1967 after Nigel's father Michael Havers QC represented them at the Court of Appeal. He also goes to the basement flat in Fulham where he was living when he got his first big break in BBC mini-series A Horseman Riding By.

TUESDAY

New York: America's Busiest City

BBC2, 9pm

New series. Ade Adepitan, Anita Rani, Ant Anstead and Dan Snow take a closer look at one of the most complex and powerful cities in the world, focusing on transport links in the first edition. Anita, Ade and Ant head to Grand Central Terminal, joining the daily commute on the iconic Staten Island ferry as well as the subway, suburban railroad and citi bikes. Dan visits Times Square to see how the 230 LED advertising hoardings are maintained, while Ade takes a ride in a yellow cab, discovering that the business model is under threat from newly created taxi apps.

WEDNESDAY

All Star Mr & Mrs

ITV, 8pm

There may be tougher quizzes, but few that have quite so much potential to provoke a previously happy couple into having a row on national TV. So, we should be impressed that ITV have found enough celebrities ready

to prove how much (or how little) they know about their other halves to make a new series. Clearly, the chance to win £30,000 for their chosen charity is a big incentive. The first famous faces to take the plunge are Emmerdale's Adam Thomas and his fiancée Caroline Daly. Strictly dancers Kevin and

Karen Clifton and Dad's Army star Ian Lavender and his wife Michele Hardy. As ever, Phillip Schofield will be asking the questions, but hopefully he won't have to act as referee as well.

THURSDAY

Ingenious Animals

BBC1, 8pm

New series. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and a team of wildlife experts travel the globe in search of the most surprising animal stories and reveal how and why animals do such remarkable things. The first episode explores the world of animal intelligence, with Hugh visiting Florida to investigate an unexpected relationship

between an alligator and a manatee, which has animal intelligence experts baffled. Plus, conservationist Giles Clark finds out if elephants can feel empathy – one of the most sophisticated forms of emotional intelligence.

FRIDAY

Would I Lie to You?

BBC1, 8.30pm

New series. The comedy panel show makes a welcome return, with the hotseat once again occupied by Welsh comedian Rob Brydon. This opening instalment of the tenth series sees team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack joined by guests Bake Off co-host Mel Giedroyc, heavyweight boxer David Haye, actor-musician Martin Kemp and comedian Roshes Ranganathan. As usual, the participants aim to hoodwink their opponents with absurd facts and plausible lies about themselves in a bid to secure a team victory and the dubious honour of being dubbed the liar of the week.

Lady C and the Castle

ITV, 9pm

The restoration of Castle Goring in Sussex, which was derelict when purchased by Lady Colin Campbell, who had plans to transform it into an upmarket venue for weddings and events.

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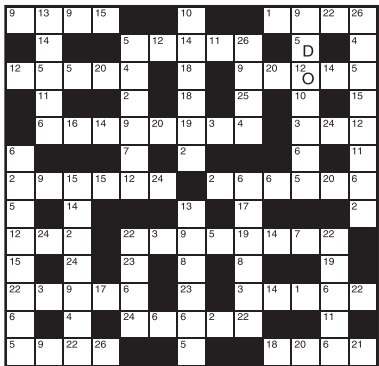
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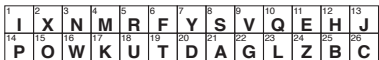
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

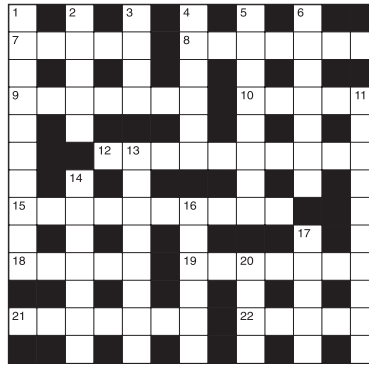
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Is about to study pictures (5)
- Its quarters are hardly spotless (7)
- Hands over and retires (5,2)
- The hump in the middle of bridges (5)
- Correctly positioned climbers are well advised to take it! (5,3,2)
- Get to grips, but in friendly fashion (5,5)
- Delay and yield to another's wishes (5)
- In a suit designed for a hot country (7)
- A facial expression - a sinister one (7)
- Cultivated Scandinavian (5)

Down

- Died with heart strain - in great pain? (10)
- One will be anxious to do it (5)
- Goddess is repeatedly put down (4)
- Embrace that really fixes things (6)
- Having got more on loan, you end up in debt (8)
- There are thirty-one of these distress calls (7)
- Fresh sand, please, for use by the sea (10)
- Sweet rice came out of it (3-5)
- A month, just, in London (7)
- The country girl (6)
- Remains precisely how he is (5)
- Egg production centre (4)



Quick Clues:

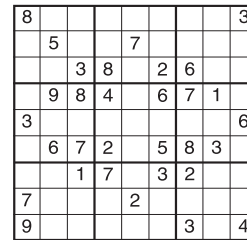
Across

- Smell (5)
- Stamp (7)
- Curtail (7)
- Cold (5)
- Trial place (5,2,3)
- Vivacity (10)
- Shoot (5)
- Windpipe (7)
- Coach (7)
- Shelf (5)

Down

- Policemen (10)
- Machine (5)
- Annoying child (4)
- Victor (6)
- Roomy (8)
- Readable (7)
- Criminal (3-7)
- Considerate (8)
- Exceeded (7)
- Essence (6)
- Rebuke (5)
- Skilled (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	4	9	7	1	8	5	6	2
7	5	1	9	6	2	4	8	3
8	6	2	4	3	5	9	1	7
4	3	6	1	7	9	2	5	8
2	7	8	3	5	4	1	9	6
9	1	5	8	2	6	3	7	4
1	8	3	2	5	7	6	4	9
6	9	7	5	4	3	8	2	1
5	2	4	6	8	1	7	3	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bean-feast; 8 Ion; 9 Army canteen; 11 Penalty; 12 Drear; 13 Little; 15 People; 17 Cabot; 18 Sea-salt; 20 On one's knees; 22 Ark; 23 Falsehood. Down: 2 Ear; 3 Focal; 4 Annoys; 5 Treadle; 6 Dinner plate; 7 Insurgent; 10 Minute-books; 11 Policeman; 14 Lets off; 16 As well; 19 Ankle; 21 Ego. QUICK - Across: 1 Elemental; 8 Rub; 9 Determinate; 11 Immerse; 12 Scour; 13 Breach; 15 Invite; 17 Learn; 18 Appear; 20 Educational; 22 Can; 23 Tasteless. Down: 2 Lie; 3 Error; 4 Told; 5 Liaison; 6 Premonition; 7 Abhorrent; 10 Temperament; 11 Imbalance; 14 Conduct; 16 Harass; 19 Pride; 21 Ass.

Quiz

- Which bird has golden and argus varieties?
- Which Scottish group had a No. 1 hit single in 1992 with Goodnight Girl?
- In which constellation is Deneb the brightest star?
- After which French city is denim named?
- Which supermodel 'wrote' the novel Swan?
- Of which place was Baron Hailsham baron?
- Of what is a magneto a simple example?
- In which US city is the Grand Old Opry?
- Who succeeded John Monks as general secretary of the TUC in 2003?
- What sort of creature is a loon?

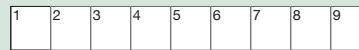
Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Fu Manchu; 2 Tenerife; 3 Treasure Island; 4 The atomic bomb; 5 M; 6 Archbishop of York; 7 Richard Burton; 8 Crows; 9 Boxing; 10 John Cleese. Niner: SCRAMBLED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6542 gives a girl's name,
8332 gives a second girl's name,
89712 gives a third girl's name.



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Tom Odell belts out a top tune



Travis's Fran Healy delighted the crowd



Justin Bieber performs with his dancers



Rick Astley, loving the atmosphere



Little Mix, who certainly couldn't be accused of dressing down

Justin time for a V-ariety of music



Kaiser Chiefs' Ricky Wilson

FROM the top of the bill to the bottom V Festival offered up a musical feast to keep the masses in high spirits all weekend.

Before the 70,000 festival goers were let in to Weston Park all the talk was regarding the main stage headliners.

Organisers pushed the boat out to get Justin Bieber over to the UK for the weekend, but fan speculation had mounted in the days leading up to the festival that he may pull out. Following his 'disappearance' from Instagram, Beliebers took to social media to express

their concern that their idol was in a bad place and would leave V with a huge gap in its line-up.

They need not have worried, as Bieber showed up to deliver a greatest hits set to an adoring, enormous crowd.

It was a fitting way to close proceedings on the Shropshire and Staffordshire border, with those who chose this leg over the Essex counterpart sure to have felt like they had claimed a small victory in getting the megastar to end their weekend. One thing that was notable by its absence, for the most part, was the rain.

So often the downfall of the whole festival experience, other

than a few showers on Saturday, the Midland crowd got to enjoy a healthy amount of sunshine, especially on Sunday.

Rihanna took to the stage in the dark of night on Saturday to give a huge crowd a party they will never forget. The superstar singer took things to another level with her eye-popping show.

For those who fancied something a bit different at the end of their nights, the MTV stage was headlined by indie heroes Kaiser Chiefs on Saturday and dance legends Faithless on Sunday.

As has become customary for V in recent years, a contrast between the worlds of pop and rock

was visible. Travis and Jake Bugg both attracted large crowds of die hard and casual fans. Travis frontman Fran Healy brought the crowd to life, even climbing the barrier at one point to get amongst it.

In between all of this was Tom Odell, whose unique voice and gorgeous songs gave everyone a chance to catch their breath, while Little Mix kept those eager to keep the party going entertained on the main stage.

Sunday's nostalgia kick came in the shape of Rick Astley, with Jess Glynne bringing us back up to date, with Stormzy and Bastille setting up the crowd for Justin's V-ry spectacular finale.



Rihanna striking a pose as one of the headline acts

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It is for sale through Taylors at £274,950.

It is approached over a shared private driveway leading off Summerhill and alongside Warwick House. Only a short distance from the town centre, it has been built to a lavish specification and is well planned.

It has a choice of two double bedrooms plus a dining room layout, or creating three bedrooms if required.

This most convenient yet pleasant setting includes a broad frontage with parking plus garage and, to the rear, over 50 ft wide broad patio and lawned gardens offering almost complete seclusion, and a late afternoon sun trap that can be fully enjoyed. A personal inspection is essential and will impress the most discerning of viewers, said a spokesman for the selling agent.

In more detail the long reception hall has a cloaks cupboard off. There is an impressively spacious lounge with four casement 'diamond' leaded windows including French windows to the rear patio, an elegant 'period' fireplace with polished wood finish surround and 'marble' finish inset and hearth with ornate polished brass 'living flame' gas fire.

The dining room/potential third bedroom has a walk-in bay window and diamond leaded lights overlooking the front and space for a dining table and chairs/bedroom furniture.

The spacious, well fitted kitchen again has diamond patterned windows. The garage has a porch approach and a remote-controlled door.

Outside the frontage includes the shared driveway and a fore garden which is low maintenance with decorative chippings. The delightful rear garden has a large riven buff patio area leaving on to generous lawned gardens with shrubs surrounding and a timber store.

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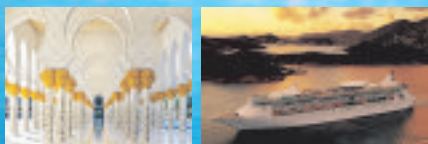
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Of equal interest to both Developers and owner/occupiers - a simple and straight-forward freehold development opportunity to create a high quality separate dwelling in a prime area with a new vehicular access. The existing single storey "link", clearly visible in the main photograph, is to be demolished as part of the scheme, therefore creating a fully detached property and Full, current, Planning Consent was recently granted by Wyre Forest District Council on 9 March, 2016 under application no. 15/0661/FULL. This approval includes a single storey rear extension to the new property but, furthermore, we also understand that the new purchaser will also enjoy additional Permitted Development Rights for further enlargement still to suit individual needs! An incredibly rare opportunity in an acutely sought after and highly accessible location, near to Chaddesley Corbett with quick access to M5/M42 Motorway links.

Guide Price £135,000-£175,000

STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060
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Old Baskerville House, Barbourne Road, Worcester WR1 1RU



Old Baskerville House is a fine Grade II Listed property, on a grand scale, currently consisting of 11 FLATS in good level grounds extending to about 0.75 of an acre with masses of parking. There is also Planning Permission for two further flats via conversion of existing garaging. Old Baskerville House currently commands a rental income of £55,380 per annum when fully let on Assured Shorthold Tenancies. Factoring in further value/income from the two additional proposed dwellings, then here is a highly profitable opportunity! External Area approximately 7,160 sq.ft. excluding the garage block.

Guide Price £800,000-£1,000,000

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Comberton Terrace, Kidderminster DY10 1QP



Spacious double fronted semi-detached property. Three/four bedrooms. Three Reception Rooms. Bathroom plus Shower Room. Separate Cloakroom/w.c. Dining Kitchen. Cellarage. Carport. Great potential for investor/owner occupier. Requires degree of modernisation & repair. EPC F

Guide Price £125,000-£140,000



KIDDERMINSTER OFFICE 01562 822244
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3 & 4 Severn Side South, Bewdley DY12 2DX



Two properties being sold as one lot. A substantial former guest house occupying a landmark riverside location but now requiring significant refurbishment: currently arranged to provide a selection of reception rooms, bedrooms and bathrooms this building provides immense potential for anyone looking for a renovation/ investment project. EPC E

Guide Price £200,000-£250,000

STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060
or **JOINT SELLING AGENTS:**
Eden Estates of Bewdley 01299 402392
Offered for sale by Public Auction subject to prior sale, special conditions & reserve.

Little Tryfan Holmcroft Rd, Kidderminster DY10 3AQ



A detached bungalow requiring refitting and refurbishment. Hall. Two Bedrooms. Bathroom. Living Room. Kitchen. Garage. Good sized plot. Excellent opportunity. EPC D

Guide Price £110,000-£120,000



KIDDERMINSTER OFFICE 01562 822244
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Leswell Lane, Kidderminster DY10 1RN



Mid Victorian Period terraced property. Ground Floor - Living Room. Vestibule. Bathroom. Kitchen. First Floor - Two Bedrooms. Second Floor - Attic Room. Cellarage. Requires renovation and updating to current tastes. Excellent owner/ occupier opportunity or investor alike. EPC TBC

Guide Price £65,000-£75,000

KIDDERMINSTER OFFICE 01562 822244
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59 Highfield Road, Kidderminster DY10 2TJ



Inter-war three bedroom family house requiring refitting and refurbishment. Porch. Hall. Through Living Room. Kitchen. Family Bathroom. Off-street parking. Good sized gardens. Recently re-roofed. A great opportunity. EPC TBC

Guide Price £85,000-£105,000

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Niro won't shortchange

By Ian Donaldson

Want a car that uses less fuel than the one you drive at the moment?

Well, the obvious way is to choose something designed with economy in mind. The car you see here might well fit the bill.

It won't cost the earth (prices start at £21,295 and top out at £26,995) and the new Kia Niro works hard to keep fuel consumption down, thanks to combining petrol power with an electric motor and big battery.

Without trying, you will see a figure comfortably the right side of 40mpg – even cruising the motorway at the same speed as all the Audis and BMWs in the outside lane.

But here's the thing; show a bit of restraint and that figure will charge towards 60mpg and you'll arrive almost as quickly and a lot less stressed.

I know because those figures – 43mpg, getting a move on and 57mpg with a little restraint – shone out from the Niro's dash after a drive in two versions of this Korean-built newcomer.

The economy choice is up to you (and applies to every other car of course, not just a new Kia) but is perhaps most sharply shown in something like the Niro because it really is not designed for all-out sporting action in the first place.

Instead we have a car designed from scratch – with an expensive to develop platform all to itself – to provide a family of five with enough space to travel in comfort with lots of luggage and not use too much petrol.

Helping achieve that hoped for economy (up to 74.3mpg official average, but less in the real world) is a 104bhp petrol engine

and a 43bhp electric motor that drive the front wheels through a six-speed automatic gearbox.

It will manage short distances on battery power alone but most of the time the two systems are at work, with the battery recharging itself as you slow down and the electric motor turns itself to braking.

Even with both power sources at work the car feels simply fast enough, not fast – with 101mph flat out and 11.5 seconds to 62mph quoted. But it's all done with the minimum of fuss as the gearbox chooses the right ratio on your behalf.

Style-wise, the Niro is (yet) another entrant to the madly burgeoning ranks of crossover vehicles – cars designed to look like a loose mix of sturdy off-roadster and slick hatchback. The world can't get enough of them at the moment, so it would be churlish of Kia not to oblige.

You'd have to say the Niro is a very mild sort of crossover; looking almost as sleek and squat as a hatch and certainly needing no higher a climb into the driving seat. The result is that it slips through the air more easily than most crossovers, to the benefit of fuel consumption and wind noise.

There are four versions of the Niro, logically called 1, 2, 3 and First Edition. All share the same engine and gearbox, although if you choose grades 3 or First Edition they come with smart 18ins alloys in place of the standard 16-inchers and put out more CO2 (101g/km versus 88g/km) and use considerably more petrol in the official test (64.2mpg plays 74.3mpg).

Trying a version of both on some fairly undemanding Northumbrian roads, both cars showed a little over 43mpg. Slowing down and driving with economy in mind transformed that figure to 57.8mpg.



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The usual Kia seven years/100,000 mile warranty is as good as it gets and the newcomer does well on economy too

The smaller wheeled Niro rode the worse roads better than its more alloyed sibling, although you'll have to take the official economy drop if you fancy one of the higher-specced Niros.

All of the newcomers have dual zone automatic air conditioning, all round electric windows, DAB radio, USB and AUX ports and a trip computer. They've also all got cruise control and Bluetooth smartphone connectivity.

Move to level 2 (£22,795) and additions include a reversing camera and satellite navigation, while the £24,695 grade 3

brings a bigger touchscreen and powerful JBL sound system.

Top of the Niro tree is the £26,995 First Edition, with active cruise control, automatic emergency braking, electric sliding sunroof, leather trim and heated seats – front and rear, with a cooling facility in the two at the front. So, any version of the Niro is unlikely to leave you feeling shortchanged on the fixtures and fittings front. The usual Kia seven years/100,000 mile warranty is as good as it gets and the newcomer does well on economy too – even better when the driver helps out.



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Suzuki's super scooter

By John Griffiths

Suzuki's big bad Burgman is the executive express of the scooter world: sharply styled, practical, comfortable and surprisingly quick.

Its size and sleek, aerodynamic looks will certainly get you noticed on the road, whether it's the commuter run or touring the highways and byways of Britain because this flagship, 650cc machine is competent in both roles.

It is luxurious, with excellent wind and weather protection and features such as heated seats and hand grips.

You can rely on the electronically controlled CVT automatic transmission to waft you smoothly through traffic, or at the touch of a button change ratios manually if you want a sportier experience on the open road.

There's also a power button which re-maps the transmission, allowing the Burgman to hit higher revs before it changes up, for example when a quick overtake is required.

The 54bhp four stroke engine is sewing-machine smooth, accelerating rapidly to 70mph when required and, were it legal, up to an estimated 100mph.

Internal upgrades to the engine and transmission mean it is more economical too, saving up to 15 per cent on your fuel bills. Expect around 50mpg.

The Burgman's surfeit of power instills confidence in the bike in traffic, as well as relaxed cruising.

It is very quiet, and the rider is protected

from the slipstream at speed by the front fairing and the tall windscreen – you can electrically adjust its height on the move thanks to a button near the right grip.

The protection is so good that 20 miles in to the test ride in a breezy North Wales I realised I was actually too warm in my conventional motorcycle clothing.

The design tweaks incorporated into the latest Burgman give it almost futuristic looks and there's a practical side, too. The footboards, for example, have been revamped to make it easier for the rider to put a foot down as you roll to a stop – an important feature on what is by any standards a large machine.

The two well-placed mirrors fold rapidly inwards (and back again) at the touch of a switch, which will doubtless be useful when filtering through city traffic (and save on potentially costly repairs).

The seat height is already commendably low at 750mm, with the pillion passenger's seat set higher so they don't spend the journey staring at the back of the rider's helmet. Both are generously sized, and have individual heaters and short but well-bolstered backrests which are also adjustable.

The wheels have more in common with a conventional bike than a typical scooter: a 15-inch rim with 120/70 rubber at the front and a 14-inch wheel with 160/60 tyre at the back. This gives the Burgman a more bike-like feel, with added straight line stability, agility and the ability to accommodate some enthusiastic cornering, allowing greater lean angles without scraping the bodywork.

Brakes too are geared to a bigger, faster machine with twin discs in front and a single disc at the rear (plus ABS) which are both operated by hand levers. There's a hand-brake, too, for when you park.



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It is luxurious, with excellent wind and weather protection and features such as heated seats and hand grips

.....

Under the seat there is a big (by bike standards) 50 litres of luggage space – plenty to take two helmets – and there are also three compartments below the handlebars for your odds and ends. One has a 12-volt power socket, handy for charging your phone or perhaps powering a satnav.

In the centre of the bars is a instrument display with analogue speedo and rev counter, flanking an LED display with comprehensive trip metre plus transmission indicator, telling you which gear you're in if you select manual mode.

The Burgman also comes in 125 and 400cc versions, at prices ranging from £3,571 to £9,136 for the flagship 650 Executive tested here.

That isn't cheap by anyone's standards, but it is competitive against rivals in this small but elite sector of the scooter market.

It is a machine which combines the performance and agility of a middleweight motorcycle with the comfort and weather protection of a scooter. There aren't too many of those around.

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HATCHBACK 1.0 S

£ 6,995



SAVING
£ 2,000



£ 108.⁷⁹
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CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	INTEREST	APR
£ 499.00	£ 10,413.64	£ 3,151.38	£ 1,418.64	3.56% 6.9%

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CAROLINE, slim attractive 40's fit female, OHAC, divorced and ready to be romanced again, seeks similar minded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423301 ☺

LINDA, 58, lonely lady, likes walks in the countryside and meals out, WLTm a gentleman, 50-60 n/s. Coventry area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423547 ☺

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

CARRIE single 29yr old slim pretty Care Assistant, looking for a fun guy for nights in/out, good times, love and laughter. Give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423489 ☺

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. Aca. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

BEV 32, 5ft, petite, very pretty, trendy with a great figure and big personality, loves animals children and WLTm fun male to be my soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423473 ☺

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

CAROL, 38, slim gorgeous brunette with lots of interests looking to put some romance back into life, seeking willing male to spoil rotten and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423439 ☺

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363

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LYN, 51, tall curvy blue eyed brunette loves countryside, motor sports and cuddles, seeks tactile romantic male for some fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423443 ☺

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunette, 34yrs, own house/car wltm gent any age, looks unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 422415

JEAN, 56, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man seeks mature male to share relaxed relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423305 ☺

SARAH 39, blonde hair, blue/green eyes, fun loving and romantic looking for new possibilities with well built, dark haired tactile male. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423093 ☺

JESSICA, sporty blonde lady 32yrs, recently divorced so seeking some uncomplicated fun with older gent. Must have gosh. Text Only Box: 4039004

BLACK, attractive cultured lady seeks white gentleman, age 40-60 for friendship first perhaps LTR later. Text only Mailbox: 5511784

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757

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KATHERINE, 45, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share intimate times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423261 ☺

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LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679 ☺

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ensure good home.
07460 345164.

LOST—"Doris", black female cat,
neutered, chipped, last seen
Sunday, August 14, Moutbrook
Ave, Codsall. 01902 846621.

TWO FEMALE CATS Neutered, 1
seven years, 1 five years approx.
Free to good home. 07435 566144.

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Merry Hill, Dudley, West Midlands

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- Embrace internal / external product & sales training
- Experience of furniture retail sector & sales would be an advantage but is not essential

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 320i M Sport
57 plate, Saloon, Le Mans blue, manual, 92,000 miles, FSH, MoT'd till October, petrol, drives perfect, very clean car.
£2,600.
Telephone 07976 631638.

BMW Z4 2.0 SE, silver, black leather, AC, electric roof, heated seats, EM EW, radio / CD, long MoT, 68k miles, £5,695 ono. 01384 393244.

CITROEN C1 2009, 10 months MoT, low mileage, excellent condition inside / out. £1,595.
07495 284545.

FIAT GRANDE PUNTO

2007, 37,300 miles, fsh, MoT March 2017, 1.2 Active, nice condition for age, couple of age related marks, very tidy.

£1,750 ono.
07572 554829.

HONDA CIVIC SE1 Votec, SA Auto, 06 reg, 5-dr hatchback, petrol, 1799cc, silver, 45,000 miles, 2 owners, £3,950. 01299 488096.

MAZDA 3 SPORT 2005, 5dr, hatch back, red, 177ns alloys, sports pack, AC, radio/CD, MoT Feb 17, lovely car, £2,495. 01384 401209.

MINI COOPER silver, 2003, MoT till January, 61,000 miles, new clutch in April, full service, £2,350 ono. 07839 360655.

MERCEDES SL350

Automatic, (Convertible) 54 reg, 72,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, powerhood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys,

Absolutely pristine.

£9,999.

07836 204450.

deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk

NISSAN MICRA AGENTA CVT

2012, 10,600 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, long MoT, auto, metallic paint, central locking, stereo, CD, spots.

£5,250 ono.
07940 829278.

NISSAN NOTE 1.5 Ntec, 2009, 5dr, hatchback, Red, 35,215 miles, FSH, Sat Nav, Bluetooth. Excellent condition.

£5,000 ono.
01384 377269.

PEUGEOT 207CC CONVERTIBLE

2008, lovely condition, fsh, MoT August 12, 2017, 47k, electric windows, electric roof, rear park assist, CD, a/c, climate control, auto lights.

£3,100 ono.

Telephone 07958 400177.

RENAULT CLIO TOMTOM New shape, 1149cc, 2008, 57,400 miles, black, Full MoT, 2-dr, very good condition. £1,999. 07879 403302.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRI 2011, manual, 54,750k, silver, 2.0DTI, alarm, abs, pas, alloys, Sat nav, MoT £5,750 ono 07707 529224.

VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 Exclusive convertible, 57 reg, petrol, leather, MoT Jan 2017, alloys, £1,750 ono. 01902 682321/ 07982 696913.

VW GOLF 1.9TDI, diesel, 04, black, 5 speed, a/c, fsh, with cambelt at 120k, long MoT, drives well. £1,695.

VW T5 Transporter, 2.5TDI, 05 kombi, 130 Auto, metallic green, 11 months MoT, 83k, excellent condition. £8750 ono. 07733 777999.

cars under £1500

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FORD FOCUS Silver, Y reg, 1.6, 12 months MoT, £500. 01902 690899.

FORD FUSION 2, 1.4 TDCi, 2004, 11 months MoT, new cam belt, 128,000 miles, spares or repair. £500. 01562 632736.

FORD STREETKA Luxury 1.6, convertible, 2004, silver. Long MoT, new parts, good condition, £800 ono. 01384 258713.

PEUGEOT 307 2003, 55,000 miles, MoT March 2017, service history, £600 ono. 01384 830662.

PEUGEOT 106
2002, 42,000 miles, green, long MoT, March 2017, great drive ideal first car very reliable
£900 ono
07949 068759

RENAULT CLIO 1.2RT, full MoT, sunroof, CL PAS, EW, CD, 5 reg, £375. 07964 350386.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6, 3dr, 2007, average mileage, 6 months MoT, nice condition. £375 ono. 07977 040715.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.6, petrol, 05 reg, 7 seater, loads of history and new parts, full MoT, 7.5k, £595 ono. 07874 870104.

RENAULT SCENIC 1600, 2005, 62,000 miles, 9 months MoT, very good condition, FSH, £395. 0785 8661821.

ROVER 25, 52 plate, 6 months MoT till Feb 2017. Used every day, 56,000 miles. New tyres £350. 07394 89338 / 01922 409760.

ROVER 45 Silver, 04 reg, 46,000 miles, MoT April 2017, two owners, beautiful condition. £300 ono. 01902 894908.

SEAT IBIZA 1.2, 05 plate, red, CD, alloys, long MoT, very good condition, £550 ono. 07950 230826.

TOYOTA RAV4 Edge, 1997, petrol, MoT, £950.
01902 864045.

TOYOTA YARIS 5dr, 1.0, 53 plate, 56,000 miles, 12 months MoT, good condition, £950 ono. 07989 243426.

VAUXHALL OMEGA estate, 2001, 2.2 petrol, manual, 2 owners, 127k miles, FSH, lots of previous history, towbar, £750. 07815 793668.

VW GOLF 1.6 petrol, 03, low miles, FSH, MoT, excellent condition, £1,350. 07542 146679.

classic cars

MGA 1600, 1960, Part completed nut n bolt restoration, photos available, rhd, ill health forces sale. £13,000. 07934 538292.

MORRIS MINOR VAN / PICKUP
complete used chassis, needs some repairs. £425 ono. Morris Minor Van ex GPO parts, wood / mesh partition, £250, ladder rack £225, needs some repairs. 07986 318514. 07393 624283.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars, Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 562993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT VAN, high top, 2000, engine just serviced, all MoT / history documents, no welding underneath, touch up needed on side. £325. 07402 66973.

VW CADDY 1.9TDI, 60 reg, s/h, alloy wheels, 87,000 miles, MoT July 2017, quick sale £4,000 ono. 07905 414269 or 01384 250953.

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RENAULT SET OF FOUR Alloy wheels, five stud, 205/55R16, £120.
07903 676531.

10 Personals

personal

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general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BURIAL PLOT Cremation for 4, Bushbury Crematorium, just inside gates, nice position £2,000 ono. 01902 786921.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994

ANNUAL KINVER VILLAGE FAIR VARIOUS ROADS IN KINVER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Staffordshire County Council made an Order on the 25 August 2016 the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in the following lengths of roads in Kinver:

High Street / Enville Road – from its junction with Church Hill to the entrance of Kinver High School.

Mill Lane – between its junction with High Street / Church Hill and the canal bridge adjacent to The Vine Inn.

The closure of Mill Lane at its junction with High Street / Church Street is expected to be effective between 10:30 and 11:30 to assemble the Grand Parade.

The Holloway – closed at either end to prevent traffic conflict on Mill Lane. unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the event; or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

The alternative routes will be as follows:

High Street / Enville Road – Church Hill, Church Road, The Compas, Stone Lane, Compton Road, Meddins Lane and vice versa.

Mill Lane – Dunsley Road, A449 Kidderminster Road, A458 Bridgnorth Road, Hyde Lane.

Throughout the duration of this Order it will be also necessary to temporarily prohibit waiting at any time on:

Mill Lane (both sides) – from its junction with High Street / Church Hill to the canal bridge adjacent to The Vine.

Church Hill – from its junction with Mill Lane to its junction with The Compas.

Cookley Lane – from its junction with Church Hill in a generally southerly direction for a distance of approximately 75 metres.

The restrictions are necessary to maintain the safety of the public for the duration of the annual Kinver Village Fair. The restrictions will be in place from approximately 09:00 until 17:30.

The Order will not, at any time, prevent access of pedestrians to premises situated on or adjacent to any road to which the Order relates, or to any premises only accessible to pedestrians from such a road.

The Order will come into operation on the 4 September 2016 and will remain in force until the Kinver Village Fair is completed.

A Map showing all of the roads involved may be inspected during normal working hours at the office of the Deputy Chief Executive & Director Economy, Infrastructure and Skills, 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance and Change, No. 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: S31004; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000 <http://roadworks.org>

Date: 26 August 2016

BURIAL PLOT CREMATION in the latest area at Bushbury Crematorium for up to 4, £1,000. 07930 478587.

sports clubs

WITHMOOR COLTS
Charter Standard Community Status Club

All Managers minimum FA Level 1 and CRC Checked.

New under 7's team are looking for players in all positions, (School year 2 in September) Please call Brendan on 07577 613172.

Under 13's West (School Year 8 in Sept) Are looking for experienced players. Call Clare on 07751 620876.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

VERA MAY PEGLER (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 9 Buckerry Close Pedmore Stourbridge West Midlands DY9 0TF, who died on 20/06/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 04/11/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

WALDRONS
Church Court Two Woods Lane Brierley Hill West Midlands DY5 1TA

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You will already have a proven track record in sales, or have high levels of customer service skills. However, if you feel you have an outgoing and friendly personality and would like the opportunity to move into a fast paced business, then we can train you to succeed in the role.

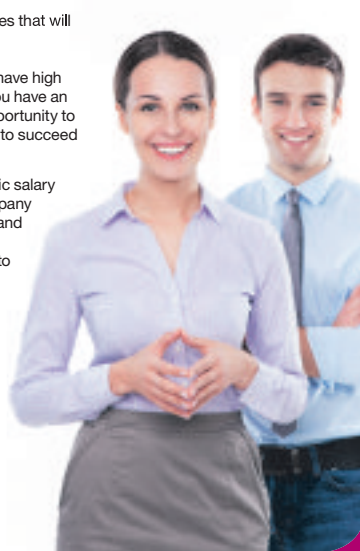
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51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Or apply by email to: hr@mnamedia.co.uk

Closing date: 31st August 2016.





Steve Brown and his Tamaki College team with visiting All Blacks including coach Osaiki Kupu and players Brodie Retallick and Julian Savea



Rugby coach Steve Brown

Coach Brown kicks off new life with future All Blacks

HE is responsible for introducing rugby to hundreds of children from the West Midlands.

Now Cannock's Steven Brown believes he is coaching youngsters who will one day star for the imperious All Blacks after starting a new life in New Zealand.

Rugby fanatic Brown – together with his wife of 33-years Julie – are well-known locally for the role they played in establishing the junior game in Cannock.

Back in 1983 Brown launched an under-14s side at Cannock RFC in a bid to show local youngsters they weren't just restricted to playing football.

In the years that followed, under-12s, under-10s and an under-19 colts team were quickly established with Brown then moving on to coach the Cannock first team.

A similar stint at Worcester Warriors followed with the coach helping train youngsters aged from eight to 13.

Culture

In 2012, having also built up a successful IT business in his professional life, Brown decided to move to the other side of the world to support Julie's dream of living in a different culture. But his love for junior rugby was never going to diminish with the coach now taking the reigns of junior teams at Tamaki College in Auckland.

In a country where rugby is the national sport, Brown has continued to thrive and was recently visited by, and held a training session with, six All Blacks after his Tamaki College under-14s side won a competition to find the best newly-founded young team in New Zealand.

And the coach admits meeting Malakai Fekitoa, Owen

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"Having coached rugby around the world this will remain as one of my greatest moments."

Franks, Brodie Retallick, Julian Savea, Codie Taylor and Ofa Tu'ungafasi was an experience he and his pupils will never forget.

"Meeting the All Blacks was, of course, a great moment for me but I was just so proud of the boys because they were a credit to their families and to Tamaki College," Brown said. "The All Blacks gave us some great tips and provided a day that these youngsters and myself will never forget."

"Having coached rugby around the world this will remain as one of my greatest moments."

"Tamaki College is not known for being a rugby school, but it currently has an excellent first XV, under-15s and now an under-14s team. I know that I am coaching future All Blacks."

Brown's love for rugby began as a youngster when he watched his brother Bill star for the likes of Lichfield, Staffordshire and London Irish.

A tough tackling prop, he himself played for Lichfield as well as Staffordshire, Stafford and Walsall. But it was after hanging up his boots that he and his wife began looking to

encourage more youngsters to take up the sport. To start the Cannock RUFC junior teams I had to prove to the local youngsters from the wider Cannock area that there was another sport other than football," he said.

"Cannock RUFC Juniors with an under-14 team then won the Staffordshire Championship in their first season."

"The following season we started the under-12s and the following season the under-10s."

"The mini junior section was established and to continue our feeder policy we organised a Chase Schools Cup. We then went on to take over the under-19s colts for Cannock."

"Cannock junior teams then went on to beat the best Midlands teams such as Moseley, Walsall, Bromsgrove, Stafford and Lichfield."

Fortunate

After achieving so much success in junior rugby, Brown revealed the pair opted to move the other side of the world to fulfil Julie's dream of living in New Zealand.

"We were fortunate that I had done everything I had wanted to do in business," he said.

"Julie had always wanted to live in New Zealand and she had supported me throughout life and it was my turn to support her."

Now with expert knowledge of rugby on both sides of the hemisphere, Brown believes that mix is helping the pupils he is currently teaching.

"I have learned so much from being in New Zealand."

"The boys here are so dedicated and fit and I have still not worn any of them down in training."

"You tell them to jump and they say how high. If they believe in you they will run through fire."

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It's pain and strain in run against train

AFTER racing against the clock for most of the year a couple of athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club pitted themselves against something a little different by taking part in the annual Race The Train event in Wales.

Organised by the Rotary Club in Tywyn, the race challenges runners to beat the steam locomotive from the Talylyn Railway over a tough 14-mile course.

The race starts with a toot of the train whistle as runners head off through the town and the train starts its own journey. The runners cope with some difficult terrain whilst the worst the train has to contend with is leaves on the line.

Instead of a nice direct course across the countryside runners have to deal with farmland, paths and trails, ploughed fields and muddy woodland, with some stretches on single file trails only used by sheep. All the time they are hoping to beat the train back to the finish line.

The weather conditions were typically Welsh, driving rain and fierce winds at the runners' backs on the way out, then blowing strongly into their faces for the return journey. Any time gains made on the way out were particularly valuable as they would soon disappear heading home, as the train, untroubled by the weather, continued its relentless pursuit.

Of the two club members taking part Dave Norman was suitably chuffed to finish strongly, coming home in 1.44.05 to take 85th place and, more importantly, ahead of the train.

Mark Homer, who was on track to beat the loco, unfortunately went flying in a nasty fall that meant he ran out of steam. He still did well in the circumstances to finish in 1.52.03 to take 178th out of a field of 834.

Rampant Spartans put the ten-man Yeltz to the sword

Halesowen Town 0 Blyth Spartans 5
EARLY home efforts from Aaron Griffiths and Richard Shio-Silva petered out and Spartans took a 24th minute lead when Matty Pattison curled a 20-yard free-kick directly into the corner of the net in sublime style.

Yeltz almost levelled when Malcolm Melvin's header struck the post but any hopes ended when Danny Bragoli was sent off for a second bookable offence at the end of the first half. Blyth took full advantage with four goals in a 13-minute spell as 10-man Yeltz capitulated.

Goalkeeper Dan Platt spilled a 61st minute shot from captain Robbie Dale, allowing Danny Maguire to tap home the loose ball. Four minutes later Stephen Turnbull crossed for Ryan Hutchinson to head home Blyth's third. A fourth followed in the 68th minute when Andrew Cartwright crossed for Pattison to smash his second into the roof of the net.

It became all too easy for Spartans as Maguire struck the post and the visitors completed win in the 73rd minute when Maguire beat Platt from the edge of the area.

Gabriel 100 vital in tricky Stratford trip

Stratford-upon-Avon 1st XI (164) lost to Stourbridge (217) by 53 runs

THINGS fell into place for struggling Stourbridge to notch up a 53 runs victory over Stratford-upon-Avon. A ton from opener Tarryck Gabriel plus the bowlers destroying the opposition top order brought the positive result.

Put into bat, Stour opening pair Alex Bingham and Gabriel made a solid start. The unhappy Bingham had to walk LBW for 15 off Perry Derrick with the score on 48 in the 12th over.

Gabriel and Zain Ul Hassan put on 94. The pace of Ben Pigott bought the downfall of Ul

Cricket

Hassan edging a ball to the keeper for 40 but Gabriel at the other end on 52 looked threatening. His innings came to end in the 34th over, having reached a ton with a six, caught and bowled by Pigott for 104 off 100 balls that included 13 fours and two sixes.

With the score on 165-3 in the 34th over Stour were set for a winning total but the lower order crumbled with just 52 more runs added.

In reply, a wicket off the fourth ball from Umar

Khalid started the damage by clipping the off stump of Robb West for a duck. A four wickets haul by Jitesh Jivan-Patel destroyed Stratford's top order. The icing on the cake was Khalid bowling number 6 Jake Salmon for a duck. Then, for some inexplicable reason, Jivan-Patel was taken off. Opener Kirby kept Stratford hopes alive with Chris Calcott moving the score on to 88 for 7. Then Calcott was caught and bowled by Gabriel for 16. The partnership of Kirby and Adrain Witts put on 70 runs, causing panic until Witt was bowled by Nabeel Ali. Kirby remained not out on 72 off 124 balls having batted three hours.

Heathens hammered by Fen Tigers

CRADLEY slumped to their heaviest defeat in five years as they were thrashed 60-29 at Mildenhall on Sunday.

The Heathens travelled to West Row without influential heat leader Ashley Morris due to a fixture clash with Premier League side Peterborough.

And they had no answer to the Fen Tigers as they were condemned to their worst result since a 64-27 hammering at Stoke in 2011.

Just six days after losing their proud unbeaten home record at the hands of local rivals Birmingham, Will Pottinger's side saw their National League play-off hopes dealt another major blow.

Only skipper Max Clegg offered any real resistance, winning his opening three rides in classy fashion on his way to 11 points. Former favourite Ellis Perks, guesting for Morris, delivered the ride of the night with a brave move to blast from last to first in heat nine.

But Heathens ran 13 last places on a nightmare afternoon, and team boss Pottinger was unable to hide his disappointment.

"We've come to expect not getting hammered like that away from home, so personally I was very disappointed with that result," he said. "That performance just wasn't good enough, we should be doing much better and we'll certainly be looking for a big improvement."

"We know the riders are a lot better than that, but for whatever reason we just didn't perform and we got what we deserved."

"We still have a number of matches, but if we're going to make the play-offs we certainly need to up our game."

He added: "I'd like to thank the supporters who made the journey, because they still supported us throughout and we really appreciate their effort."

Heathens aim to get their top four bid back on track in Kent on September 5.

Robins caught out by bizarre leveller

Dudley Town 1 Wellington Town 1

DUDLEY Town got a good point against Wellington, who were second in the table at the start of play, and but for a bizarre equaliser it could have been more.

In a poor game played in a swirling wind with few chances for either side, Town took the lead on 59 minutes when Lee Smith threaded the ball for Shaun Devonport to slot home.

On 78 minutes stand-in Dudley goalkeeper Andy Arnold attempted to throw the ball to a defender but it hit him on his back and rebounded to Paul Jones who squared it to Aaron Morlian to score easily.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midlands News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Katley, Telford.
Thursday, August 25, 2016



DK BEAT THE SLIPPERY SILS

DK 29 Silhillians 12

DK scored six tries and conceded two against Silhillians at Heathbrook in what proved to be an entertaining game despite heavy rain.

There were problems with ball retention for both sides in slippery conditions but it was also a game in which players were looking to impress.

DK opened the scoring with a try from Joe Tighe, who has impressed on the flank in both games so far. Duncan Tompkins added the extras, 7-0 to DK.

Sils were under territorial pressure and it stretched the defence with DK's second try again a team try with ball retention in the ruck and maul and then shipped wide when passing saw Luke Greenwood put through for the second try. Again Duncan T added the extras, 14-0.

Just before half time, Silhillians were back in the game after having driven up the field towards the DK 22 where a ruck was formed. Danny Hawkins was penalised for going in at the side and Sils took a quick penalty before the DK defence could organise and were over for a try under the posts. With the easy kick it was 14-7 going into half time.

DK secured the game within the third quarter with two tries from prop Arran Hudson, carbon copies of each other - a penalty into the corner, a line out win and a well set up driving maul with Arran coming up with the ball on both occasions.

With the score now 24-7 the conditions started to influence the game with both sides making errors and moves frequently breaking down.

To their credit the next score went to Sils when they were able to give their right wing the chance to finish a good backs move to make it 24-12.

DK then started to take back command of the game and finished when they were able to get their phase play working. Mitch Grawley breached the defence and suddenly Danny Hawkins was there for the final try 29-12.

The scoring was completed when George Ingram slotted a long conversion from a difficult angle, 31-12 the final score.

On Saturday Bridgnorth visit Heathbrook with the kick off at 2.30pm.

Dressage triumph for Sophie



Brierley Hill's Sophie Holder in action at SEIB Trailblazers Championships held at Stoneleigh Park

A YOUNG rider from Brierley Hill has become the 2016 Dodson & Horrell Junior Intro Dressage Champion at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire.

Sophie Holder was taking part in the SEIB Trailblazers Championships, an equestrian extravaganza that is the culmination of hard work put in by amateur riders who have qualified through two rounds of competition throughout the UK.

This was Sophie Holder's third trip to the Championships. She first attended in 2012, contesting the Junior Preliminary division with her 13.2hh pony, and came again in 2015 with her other horse, a 16.2hh Dutch Warm-

blood with whom she has since affiliated with British Dressage.

Her mount this year was Torthorwald Julius, a six-year-old Arab gelding. Julius was brought into work late, and Sophie is working hard to solidify his education as a dressage horse.

After his Trailblazers success, she hopes to affiliate Julius and see how far he can progress. Then, she will sell him on to fund her next young horse.

"I'll definitely be back for another Trailblazers Championships with another horse," said Sophie, who balances her studies with working for dressage rider Sue Brennan during the school holidays.

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